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THE WOMEN'S COUNCIL.

After the late session of the Board at Washington, which terminated on Friday evening, January 15th, a Council of Women, representing the various Branches of the U. S. Sanitary Commission, assembled at the Central Office, and were in session Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, January 18th, 19th, and 20th. Maine, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Vermont, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Illinois, Maryland, were represented, and—to name some cities and towns—Portland, Boston, Brattleboro', Middletown, (Conn.,) New Haven, Watertown, (N. Y.,) Buffalo, Rochester, New York city, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Elmira, (N. Y.,) Wilmington, (Del.,) Chicago, Troy, Sharon, (Conn.) In addition to the ladies, who were formal delegates from the Branches, the wives of some Senators and Representatives most interested in the war were present, and a few ladies distinguished for their activity in the public service, Miss Dix, Mrs. Senator Harlan, Mrs. Gibbons, and the wives of two generals in the army. Besides the President, and the General Secretary and Associate Secretaries, and other officers of the Commission, several medical and military gentlemen attended the council.

It was no part of the design of the meeting to discuss or effect any change in the organization of the Branches—which have long been working with commendable efficacy; nor to bring about any greater conformity in the details of local work—there were no special embarrassments or obstacles to remove or overcome. The meeting of women held under Mr. Olmsted's superintendence a year ago, had effected all that was desirable in that respect; and then not by force of any compulsory or binding regulations—but only by the comparison of views and the diffusion of light. One fter another of the eastern Branches had voluntarily adopted the general method first assumed by the Boston Branch, until there was little to choose in the order and success of their operations. Nor were the Branches in want of light upon the views, the plans, and the machinery of the Central Board. The numerous and thorough publications of the Commission had furnished, to all attentive readers of them, sufficient illumination upon these points. Yet it was not vainly thought, that the meeting of these representative women would bring out, by wholesome friction of opinions and exchange of experience, much that would be both new and interesting to themselves and valuable to the Commission itself; that the sight of each other would be gratifying and stimulating; and especially that the bringing of the experience and work of the Branches, and the experience and work of the Commission itself in the hospitals and the field, into direct contact and comparison, or rather into their real relationship to each other, would present the whole work in its completeness, and give to the usually divided or discriminated halves of the common enterprise, the feeling of wholeness, in which our nature so much rejoices.

The first thing, then, attempted in the meeting, was to convey to the women in council a full and living conception of the work of the Commission, in the hospital, the field, and with the soldiers everywhere. This was effected in various ways :—1st. By carefully laying out in *words*, the distinction between the objects, and methods, and duties of the Branches—in their collection of supplies—and the objects, methods, and duties of the Commission in their distribution of them. 2d. By lecturing from a gigantic diagram, in which each and every part of the work of the Commission is laid down in lines, (of different colors)—the medical, or preventive service, in green, the special relief service in red, and the general supply service in black; and by which diagram the system of responsibility adopted in our Commission service is illustrated. 3d. By lecturing on the black board on the geographical position of our corps and on our relief stations, with illustrations of the difficulties of transportation and the distance of four armies from their base. 4th. By inviting questions and furnishing answers, or by asking questions and obtaining answers from the ladies present—many of whom had been in the field.

The chief questions the Commission had to ask the Branches were :

1. As to the efficiency of the new plan of associate managers.

It was found that wherever faith and zeal had taken hold of the cause, the least patriotic towns and neighborhoods had yielded to the efforts of the single-handed ladies who had championed our plan. One lady had found that when three or four letters of inquiry and entreaty for some town organization had failed to effect it, the fifth, sixth, or seventh accomplished it. Another (and this was a general testimony) had found, that where all letters had failed, personal visits succeeded. One manager had visited forty different towns. Another had quickened loyalty and humanity in the very nests of copperheadism, and made several towns, given over to hopeless hatred of the war and all its fruits, take to active exertions in behalf of our sick and suffering soldiers. Twenty-seven counties in New York, with associate managers, furnished three times the amount of supplies of twenty-seven other equally favorably situated counties without associate managers. It was found that the western region was more generally interested, though not so systematically at work as the eastern; and the comparison of notes between the representations of different districts left an impression upon some of the Branches, that the fields that they now tilled needed, and would bear, much deeper plowing and a wider sowing.

2. The influence of canvassing agents was a point on which the Commission needed information from the Branches. It was generally allowed that the information communicated by the living voice, by well-informed and experienced canvassers, had done great good, and that documentary, or even newspaper publications, would not take its place. Many communities dated their faith in, and zeal for, the Commission, from the visit of some earnest and thorough canvasser. More of this work was asked for.

3. The influence of the *Bulletin* and of our documents in general, was another question we had to ask. There seemed to be a divided judgment on this point. Those who were comparatively new to our work valued these publications, and thought them very essential, indeed indispensable. Those who knew it best, thought the *Bulletin* too heavy; the articles not short enough; not enough crowded with spicy and affecting incidents; too much occupied with business reports and scientific matter. The ladies were informed that the *Bulletin* had several functions:—1. To take the place of other and expensive printing, and preserve our official reports for circulation among our own corps of workers. 2. To advance sanitary science. 3. To communicate with the medical men in the army and the profession elsewhere. 4. To keep the money-giving public posted as to the substantial nature and extent of our work. 5. To address the sensibilities and affections of the homes of the land. We could not sacrifice the other four objects wholly to the last; but we would endeavor to make the last more prominent.

4. The influence of Sanitary Fairs upon our future prospect of supplies, was an-

other question of great interest. As "in dry weather all signs fail," so it was commonly thought, in a critical and exceptional period of our national history like this, the usual rules break down as to the unfavorableness of spasmodic excitements upon the normal interest of the public in sanitary work. It was stated that in Chicago and in Boston the fairs, very unpopular among business men at the start, had grown in favor as they came to the practical test; that the business interest had found them their best advertising card; and that trade, instead of suffering by their competition, had actually thriven in a marked way under their stimulus. Chicago, it was represented, was quite ready to have another, if necessary. The amount of patriotism created by the fairs quite overbalance any loss of regular industry through the temporary exhaustion caused by them. There seemed to be little evidence that the usual returns of the receiving depots were lessened by the existence of the fairs, while the increase of numbers freshly interested in the work, by the attention thus called to the subject, largely exceeded, in its prospective results, all possible injury produced by these local excitements.

The main questions which the Branches had to put to the Commission were these:

1. There is a common impression, industriously increased by the rivals or enemies of the Commission, that the cost of the Sanitary Commission is excessive—particularly in salaries and in printing. The ladies present had no misgivings on this point, but they wished to be able to answer the gainsayers with authority. It was shown that the Sanitary Commission had received (by estimated value) about seven millions of dollars in supplies, and about a million dollars in money; that the money had been used, about *half*, in purchasing such kinds of supplies as the homes of the land do not furnish—medicines and food necessary for the sick and their relief; and the other half in distributing efficiently, by a thoroughly organized and necessarily costly system, the seven millions of supplies, or in maintaining Homes and Lodges and special Relief. It was shown that at a cost of $15,000 a month, two hundred experts, medical inspectors, relief agents, clerks, and assistants were maintained in the field, distributed all over the country, from Texas to New York; from Port Royal to Kansas; that these men did not average the wages of carpenters and masons, although most of them were men of education, taste, and skill, who could earn many times over their salaries in other fields of labor; that, for instance, the Relief Corps of the whole army of the Potomac did not average $2.00 a day to each man, and that no volunteer service could take its place, or compare with it in efficiency.

2. As to printing, everybody was amazed to learn that the whole cost of printing to the Commission, for its whole existence, three years nearly, had been about $10,000, including advertising, reporter, *Bulletin*, medical tracts, and other documents. The Chicago Branch, by its eloquent and enlightened delegate, Mrs. Hoge, urged that *advertisements*, by newspaper, pulpit, and circular, was the very life of all success; that in their Branch the matter had been reduced to an absolute system, and that they hesitated at no expense found necessary in bringing their wants before the public. She urged the importance of frequent and of *specific* calls by printed circulars, and explained the efficacy of an "*Onion Circular*," only eight lines long, which brought that wholesome anti-scorbutic on strings into their depots, till hundreds of barrels were despatched. This was followed, by "a Potato Circular," and that by "a Pickel Circular," with similar productiveness. The whole press, secular and religious—the whole clergy, by careful lists made out according to denomination, were made mediums of advertising in the West, with wonderful results.

3. The question of security in the transportation of supplies, and of a prompt and just distribution of them among the sick, without ravage from surgeons, stewards, and nurses, was treated with great copiousness. The Commission exchanged their testimony with those ladies who had been at the seat of war in quest of evidence on this vital point. The Commission has always assumed the general trustworthiness of the Medical Department, the army surgeons, and stewards, on ordinary grounds

of confidence in the decency of persons holding responsible stations. It has admitted a small per centage of loss and ravage. But apart from this general trust, its positive watchfulness and direct observation have warranted none of the suspicions so vulgarly prevalent against the honesty and ordinary humanity of the surgeons of the army. Mrs. Hoge testified that with the fullest opportunities of tracing supplies, she had not been able to see how they could, or that they did get stolen, or lost on their way; or that after reaching the hospital, it was possible that they should be misappropriated without producing universal scandal. She stated that in Memphis, where several large hospitals existed, out of all the numerous wards she found but two in which the least complaint existed among the men that the supplies did not reach them, and that the ward-masters, in these two cases, were at once dismissed on her complaint to the surgeon in charge.

She stated an affecting anecdote of a surgeon, worn down with many sleepless nights, whom she had exhorted to go to bed—who said, "How dare I go to bed, with these rumors constantly circulating in the homes that we surgeons are a slothful, self-indulgent set;" and in another case, when she begged an exhausted surgeon to take some white sugar in his tea, he exclaimed, "No, brown sugar for me; I must deny myself the ordinary comforts provided for other sick men, or I shall be set down among those worthless wretches called surgeons, who are eating up the poor soldiers' delicacies."

As to the washing in the army, a vast improvement was recognized, and the system appeared to be working well. It appeared to be even better in the hospitals near the field of war than nearer home, where pure sloth—which seemed to invade alike ward-masters and soldiers—kept them all alike often filthy and unwashed.

Besides the President, Dr. Jenkins the General Secretary, Dr. Newberry the Associate Secretary for the West, Mr. Knapp the Associate Secretary for the East, participated largely, and each with some special contribution of experience. Dr. Newberry, whose personal experience has been as vast as his labors have been abundant and efficient, was specially instructive on the topography of our western operations—illustrating the vast difficulties of transportation, and the length of the lines along which we forwarded our supplies.

Miss Dix met the ladies by special appointment after the adjournment, and gave them an address on Hospital Nursing of great interest and value.

The ladies visited "the Home," the "Lodges," the Store-houses, the Convalescent Camp, the Hospitals, and other objects of interest, including the President. Their visit appeared as eminently satisfactory to themselves as it was interesting and instructive to the Commission. Those who came together as strangers, parted as warm friends. The faith of the highly intelligent, practical, and useful women who thus came together—whose judgment, sound, sober, and experimental, would be no common ordeal—was, if possible, fixed with firmer roots in the cause of that Commission which they had trusted and labored for so long, and which they found bore the closest scrutiny and the most punctilious questioning.

Expressions of regard for Mr. Olmsted—who had presided at the last meeting—were heartily united in by the Council before they adjourned.

An address was delivered by the President of the Commission at the opening of the Council, of which the following is the substance:

The object of this meeting is to establish the most satisfactory and efficient relation between the Central Board of the Sanitary Commission and its Branches.

The satisfactoriness and efficiency of this relation depends—

I. Upon a clear understanding of what the distinctive functions of the Branches and of the Central Board are.

THE BRANCHES ARE DESIGNED:

1. To organize affiliated societies within their own geographical districts; afford them, by circulars and correspondence, by lectures and printed matter, all needed information and incitement to intelligent zeal and permanent effort.

2. The Branches collect, store, sort, mark,

and forward supplies, to the order of the Central Board, through its General Secretary.

3. They attend to such local relief, distribution, and hospital care of sick or wounded soldiers, as may be needed in the Home-field, by soldiers in transit, or while in process of preparation for the field of war, and supervise such local interests of the Commission as may arise in their special spheres. This is sometimes under the separate organization of a committee of associates, and sometimes wholly without it. The principle is in either cases the same.

4. The Branches, having originated under different circumstances, two at least even before the Commission itself, are not strictly analogous, either in form of title, or methods of operation, and in this respect follow the genius of our institutions; according to which the separate States, while all loyal to the Federal Government, have certain special characteristics and laws suited to their origin and circumstances. This difference in unity is a bond of strength, allowing the Branches to sway with ease in the direction of the local winds that sweep them, without forsaking or endangering the common stock into which they are grafted.

5. The Branches are independent in their local rule, their special methods, their by-laws, their treasury, the choice of members, and officers. They are bound to the Central Board only in this :

(1.) An engagement to distribute supplies exclusively through the Sanitary Commission and its authorized agents.

(2.) An obligation to receive and acknowledge the fundamental principles of the Commission, *i. e.*, (*a*) the great federal principle of absolute ignoring of State or local claims, in favor of the National or United States soldier; and (*b*) the co-operation of the Commission with the Medical Department and the Government, as a strengthener and supplementer of their plans, and rules, and method—not their rival, antagonistic, or unfriendly critic.

THE CENTRAL BOARD

has it for its duty, to study the wants of the army in the field :

1. To see its dangers to health and life, and to prevent them, by diffusing information, warning, and anti-scorbutics, sometimes in the form of food—fresh vegetables or change of diet—and sometimes in the form of prophylactic medicines, and sometimes in the dissemination of vaccine virus. This preventive service requires three different agencies :

A. A Corps of Medical Inspectors, whose time is passed with the armies in the field, visiting camps, hospitals, and transports ; experts, who watch the perils from climate, malarious exposure, from hard marching or active campaigning, from inadequate food or clothing, growing out of imperfect facilities of transportation, and report to the Associate Secretary in charge, or to Relief Agents under their control, what is to be done in the way of supplies, cargoes of vegetable, or loads of clothing, for their protection. This preventive service, by its processes, collects the scientific materials for our Bureau of Statistics, by which we reach those generalisations that teach us how to do our work better and better. The comparison of climates, and circumstances, and discipline, and age of troops, and method of treating them, forms the basis of instruction which must influence the whole future of soldiers in the field.

B. A Corps of Special Hospital Inspectors, selected from the most learned physicians, make from time to time the circuit of all the general hospitals, and report upon their wants, condition, progress, *personnel*, and capacity for improvement—the substance of which reports is confidentially made over to the Surgeon-General.

C. The preparation and circulation of medical tracts, and information important and indispensable to the officers, soldiers, and especially the medical men in the field.

II. We pass from the Preventive to the Relief Service.

This is divided into two branches, General and Special Relief.

GENERAL RELIEF

consists in supplementing such ordinary and recognized wants of the soldiers in the field, as our Medical Inspectors and Relief Agents may discover to exist, or as experience has taught us necessarily must exist.

These wants are all theoretically met by the army system; and if it worked *in vacuo* without friction or disturbance, there would be no occasion for eking out its deficiencies, which would not then exist. But in the two first years of the war the machinery had not got into gear and full running order ; the army grew faster than the medical, or any other military department could ; and then we were necessary to take the place of great vacancies and acknowledged breaks in its true order.

These grew out of ignorant and untrained quartermasters, unskilled surgeons, imperfect administration, fallible generals, colonels, and captains ; while the deficiencies in the strained commissary and transportation and medical stores, both in medicines and clothing, added frightfully to the embarrassment.

Then, even general hospitals, the nearest home, were shabby, ill-designed buildings, with poor kitchens and no fit arrangements for washing, without adequate hospital clothing or delicate food, and with too much ignorance to accumulate a hospital fund, or perhaps unable to get it from our strained Treasury, when they knew better. This made for more than a year our work in furnishing clothes and supplies to general hospitals immense, even in Washington itself. What must it have been elsewhere?

But regimental hospitals, transports, hospital cars, and sick in quarters, cannot but be pressed for supplies, long after general hospitals are well off; and the further from their base, the worse off they are. There is no reason to doubt that but for the millions of supplies, clothing, and delicacies distributed to these places during the first two years of the war, the suffering would have been too horrible to relate.

Oftentimes our store and supplies have been the main dependence in some exigency of transportation, or change of base, or other military move.

The meeting of these field necessities compels us to keep a corps of Relief Agents with every considerable body of troops in the field, and their duties are as regular and as urgent now as they ever were.

But within the last year, we may concede that the military preparations of the Government are complete; that the Medical Department is working as nearly according to theory as is possible, and is theoretically able to meet all demands. Now, we are discovering that a state of war, in a country as wide as ours and on so vast a scale, creates an amount of misery in the army which the most perfect machinery of the Government, working in the most perfect way, cannot diminish to a point to satisfy humanity. We find that the exceptions to rules, which must be broad and general to cover a million men, are sufficient to require a special corps like ours (as large as a whole Medical Department in a moderate war) to meet them. And this is sufficiently proved by the fact, that humanity requires us to call as loudly as ever for stores, and will not permit us to diminish our working force.

Turning from General to

SPECIAL RELIEF,

we have perhaps quite as large a department as the other.

It is called special, not because adapted mostly to individual cases, but because it is not designed to eke out any thing which the Government undertakes to do at all. It is a pure invention of our own, and consists:

1. In providing Homes, with shelter and food and medical care and general superintendence, at all the main points where soldiers are found in any considerable numbers, for those soldiers who are not yet under the care of the Government, or have just got out of their care, or have somehow lost their status and cannot immediately regain it,—recruits, or men on leave, sick-leave or furlough, going to and fro; strays, men without skill to care for themselves, ignorant, under-witted, vicious; men discharged prematurely from hospitals; men found in the streets, or left behind by their regiments. It is enough to say that we estimate that every day we have 2,300 such men on our hands at night—in our beds and at our tables at each meal of the day. To see one of these Homes is to see all; and they are little military towns, with barracks, mess-rooms, hospitals, arsenals, baggage-rooms, accommodations for visitors, reading-rooms, places for soldiers' wives and children, &c.

2. Besides the Home proper, come "Lodges," which are miniature Homes, supplementary to the larger one, and meeting wants of a local character. We have, scattered though Washington, Paymaster, Pension, and Ticket-offices.

3. Under the name of Special Relief must come every thing done to secure pensions, or back pay, or transportation, to correct soldiers' papers, save them from sharpers, and dispel their ignorance and their fears.

To this is to be added our Battle Field work, too often described to make it necessary to say any thing here; then our Hospital Transports; then our Hospital Cars and Trains; then our Hospital Directory.

Now, to keep all this machinery in motion, there must be a power behind it to animate and direct it. This power is made up of men and money. The men are: The U. S. Sanitary Commission Board, the Standing Committee, the General Secretary, the three Associate Secretaries, the two great offices—one Washington, two Louisville—with the smaller office co-ordinating them at New York. Then the Medical Inspectors, Relief Agents, Ordinary Clerks, Special Aids in time of battle—about 200 in ordinary times. The Board has no salary. Cost of Agents is $15,000 a month.

Here Dr. B. described the office work in all its variety, by the diagram.

MONEY.

This great work cannot go on without money.

This money is got by keeping the public constantly informed of our wants and methods. Hence our advertising, our documents, our Sanitary Reporter and Bulletin, and the expense of printing. Hence our canvassing agents for money and supplies. California has been our principal resource for money.

OBJECTS OF THE MEETING.

Now, after this explanation of our work, it seems easier to come to the objects of this meeting:

1. Our Branches want to diffuse a spirit of confidence and of information among our constituents in all parts of the country, as to the wisdom, energy, economy, and success with which their supplies are disposed; and this they must acquire or strengthen here.

2. To interest the public in the principles and methods of the Commission, by what they learn, or add to their previous stock of learning.

3. To compare notes *with us*, telling us from their own fields of sympathy and observation what we need for our better guidance, and receiving such information from us as may help them in their field.

4. To compare methods, obstacles, and successes with each other, so that each may have the light of all; not so much in the way of agreeing on any common plan, as of obtaining counsel, inspiration, and light upon their own chosen path.

5. To give us the benefit of their experience as to the way *the Fairs* are going to affect our future supplies.

6. To tell us what our relations on the Home field are with other Commissions or State agencies.

7. To give us their idea of what canvassing agents should be and how work, and what they think of those they know.

8. To suggest any improvements in their working relations to the Commission.

9. To report, as far as they are prepared, upon the number of Societies they represent, the amount of work they have done, their past, present, and future, and to make any special written or verbal communications.

TRANSPORTATION IN TENNESSEE.

The following report, addressed by Mr. Butler to Dr. Newberry, our Associate Secretary in the West, December 26th, may serve to give our readers some idea of the difficulties with which the Commission has to contend in the transportation of supplies for the army in Tennessee:

In compliance with instructions received on the eve of our departure for Chattanooga, 6,000 pounds of the choicest stores were shipped from Louisville, and duly received and stored at Camp Nelson, to await transportation by the first train from Knoxville, Tenn.

On my arrival at Camp Nelson I found that a large shipment of stores, much more varied in kind, had been sent to my care for the same destination by the Cincinnati Branch. Orders for transportation for both shipments having been received separately from General Burnside, would have been promptly honored by Capt. Hall, A. Q. M. at Camp Nelson, had not the presence of Longstreet's rebels and sundry guerrilla forces on the various routes forbidden transportation to Knoxville. Under these circumstances, seven or eight days were unavoidably lost; but the great impediments were finally removed on the second day of the present month. A train of seventy teams was, in the space of one day, prepared for the journey, six of which were ordered to transport our stores.

Having previously calculated on loading 2,000 lbs. to each team, the transportation furnished might have been sufficient, but the A. Q. M. being better advised of the condition of the roads, imperatively restricted each team to 1,200 lbs., thus making it necessary to leave for the next train some of the less important boxes and barrels.

Leaving Camp Nelson on the 3d, we reached the foot of "Big Hill" at noon on the 7th without trouble or adventure; notwithstanding that the guerrillas had appeared in Mount Sterling, Ky., and were frequently reported in the vicinity of our train, we did not see them. We had been so far favored with a good road that we made moderate progress, but now the Big Hill was before us. The ascent, though only one mile, occupied two of the hardest days' work that we had yet known, and involved considerable destruction of mules, harness, and teams.

From the foot of Big Hill, we look in vain for any thing but rocks and ruts, consequently a few miles, from three to fifteen, suffice for a day's travel.

Stores are ruinously jolted; boxes and barrels unavoidably break; while rarely a day passes without a team being capsized into a creek, or river, or down a precipice.

We reached Camp Pitman on the 13th, distant from Camp Nelson about eighty-five miles.

Through the wagon-master of our train, I obtained an order from Captain Hall, which made our train independent of the brigade train, and consequently put an end to the annoying delays to which we had been repeatedly subjected.

At Camp Pitman, I found the 51st New York regiment guarding the post, and the Assistant Surgeon, Dr. Burd, was doing good among numberless obstacles.

In nearly every house from the top of Big Hill, I found that soldiers in every degree of disease had been left upon the hospitality and care of the people. In one house I found six soldiers occupying beds, and the constant attention of a widow lady and her two daughters. The poor sick and weary men were unable to proceed any further, and these patriotic Samaritans, whose brothers were among our soldiers in the field, were, out of their scanty means, administering to their relief and comfort.

Having received information of such necessities before leaving Camp Nelson, I had provided a quantity of beef extract, milk, crackers, an assortment of woollen under-wear, and sundry other things, which I found were actually required by men, sick, hungry, and naked.

I found Dr. Burd collecting these poor fellows, and affording all aid possible within his power. He had procured a building, which he had made as comfortable as his resources would allow, and he strove arduously to make his miscellaneous hospital as effective as the emergency demanded. I was gratified in being able to furnish him with a variety of stores for his sick patients, for I know him to be one of the kindest and most faithful of men.

During the forenoon of the 16th instant, I reached a house on Lincamp's Creek, and saw two men working at a coffin. After some inquiries, I learned that twelve days previously a soldier had stopped at the house, complaining of chronic diarrhœa and rheumatism. The people shared their morsel with him, and employed their limited knowledge of medicine for his relief.

The poor fellow also suffered with colic, which finally set in as an adjunct to his complicated disorders, and tortured him until he threw his armor down for his long rest in a mountain grave. I desired the sergeant of the guard to ascertain his effects, and finding only ninety cents, I threw the sum over to the poor family, as a very small remuneration for their attention to the soldier.

Turning one day, a mile from the road, I found a grave, which I was informed contained six soldiers who had died in the neighborhood; but no human scribe was found to register their names ere death made them oblivious to all but God. And so it has been with many others, how many God only knows. But in the case of him whose rude coffin was being made before my eyes, I especially realized my duty to the soldier, although dead, and also to his parents.

I gleaned from the family all the particulars necessary to advise his parents of his disease and death, and also the locality of his grave. I wrote at Barboursville to his father, Aaron Bachtle, Roanoke Post Office, Huntington county, Ind. The deceased soldier's address was Hiram Bachtle, Commany C, 115th Ind.

While so many soldiers, sick and debilitated, were passing over the mountains toward Camp Nelson, in most cases totally dependent on the meagre hospitality of the people, I ardently wished that this rude section of the country had resources similar to those of more favored people; for with all their poverty and abject indigence, which nearly every dwelling in some counties presented, I never knew a soldier denied participation in their meal of corn bread and bacon—vegetables, milk, butter, sugar, and coffee being great rarities among them.

Dwelling generally in what we would term miserable log houses, squalid women and children live month after month on their very scanty fare, and tell the stranger —soldier or citizen—of the fathers and sons in the Union army.

The winter is now upon them, and they are ragged. Their corn is about eaten, and they have little or no money to buy more, if perchance one might be found to sell. The alarming alternative is only too visible, and they shrink from it with dread. The necessities of the Government service had aided very materially in the exhaustion of their staple product, so that now there is almost nothing along the route to Cumberland Gap for either man or beast.

That they will need much and suffer extremely if unaided in their need during the winter, is indisputable; and as they are proverbial for their fidelity to the Government, and have invariably befriended our sick, straggling soldiers, they should receive our practical sympathy to the extent of our ability and their necessity. A word to philanthropists is sufficient.

Before leaving Camp Pitman we obtain a new supply of mules, harness, and wagon tongues, also a large amount of forage. No event, except such as have become of common occurrence, transpired until we had passed through Cumberland Gap on the 20th inst., when a rumor was afloat that no train would be allowed to pass on the direct road to Knoxville, as the rebels were infesting that portion of the country. By the advice of the Post Commandant we took the Jacksboro' road, though twenty miles further, as it was considered safe.

Leaving Cumberland Gap on the evening of 21st, we made better progress, while the forty guards, who had heretofore been employed in assisting the teams, were ordered by the officer in command to march in advance of the train, under arms.

Several encounters had taken place in

our vicinity between General Wilcox and Longstreet only a few days previously, and others were pending, while the cannonading was distinctly audible in our train.

There was marked anxiety among the guard to protect the train to Knoxville, as they knew the great need which existed in the hospital there.

On the evening of the 24th inst. we encamped twenty-two miles from Knoxville, and on the following morning I started on horseback, arriving in the recently besieged city before noon.

I soon met with our agent Mr. R. N. Strong, who was expecting me, and had procured two store-rooms adjoining each other. The train arriving on the following evening, the stores were transferred to the building on the morning of the 27th inst. I was surprised to find so little damage done to the stores, a few pounds of crackers and dried apples were the amount of the loss, after so long a journey over such miserable roads.

There are in Knoxville five hospitals, having their branches, and containing nearly 2,000 patients. While the Commissary has been recently well replenished, the supplies of the Medical Department were scanty. Our stores were anxiously expected, and they were joyfully received.

On Monday the 28th inst., Mr. Crary arrived from Chattanooga with three hundred packages of select stores. Other shipments have been arranged from and by way of Chattanooga. I am gratified with the intelligence that the river is opened for transportation from Bridgeport to Knoxville, so that our stores may not be subjected again to such delay as on this journey, however unavoidable.

"HOW ARE YOU? SANITARY."

BY F. B. HARTE.

Down the picket-guarded lane,
Rolled the comfort-laden wain,
Cheered by shouts that shook the plain,
Soldier-like and merry:

Phrases such as camps may teach,
Sabre cuts of Saxon speech,
Such as "Bully! "Them's the peach!"
"Wade in, Sanitary!"

Right and left the caissons drew
As the car went lumbering through,
Quick succeeding in review
Squadrons military;

Sunburnt men, with beards like frieze,
Smooth-faced boys and cries like these—
"U. S. San. Com." "That's the cheese!"
"Pass in, Sanitary."

In such cheer it struggled on
Till the battle front was won,
Then the car, its journey done,
Lo, was stationary;

And where bullets whistling fly
Came the sadder, fainter cry,
"Help us, brothers, ere we die—
Save us, Sanitary!"

Such the work. The phantom flies,
Wrapped in battle-clouds that rise;
But the Brave, with dying eyes,
Veiled and visionary,

Sees the jasper gates swung wide,
Sees the parted throng outside,
Hears a voice to those that ride—
"Pass in, Sanitary!"

—*San Francisco Bulletin.*

THE METROPOLITAN FAIR.

SCOPE AND PLAN OF THE FAIR.

The Metropolitan Fair is not designed to be a mere fancy fair on a large scale. In its plan, as well as in its scope, it is intended to be worthy of the great city in which it is to be held, and of the great occasion to which it ministers. To that end, it must be universal in its attractions, enlisting all sympathies, pleasing all healthy tastes, and satisfying all honest needs. It must be democratic, but not vulgar; elegant, but not exclusive; fashionable, but not frivolous; popular, but not mediocre. Therefore, it is intended that this Fair shall afford, in its getting up, something for everybody to do; something, when it opens, for everybody to buy; something to gratify the sober and please the gay, to win the approval of the serious and the utilitarian, and at the same time to catch the eye and suit the taste of the young, the light-hearted, and even the trifling. The good, the rich, the well-to-do—those in humble life, the fashionable, the politicians, the clergy, the Chamber of Commerce, the Police, the Fire Department, the Trades' Unions, and all the great industrial establishments, should be interested in this Fair.

Chicago, Cincinnati, and Boston have done nobly in this direction, and it becomes New York to do, at least, as well in proportion to her means and the advantages of her position. There is an espe-

cial reason, too, why we of the Atlantic seaboard should make unusual exertions to fill the treasury of the Sanitary Commission; and this is, that of the money received by the Commission, considerably more than one-half has been contributed by our countrymen upon the shores of the Pacific—California, alone, having sent more than five hundred and twenty-five thousand dollars.

For such a Fair as this, those who have undertaken its management will not *beg* contributions. They would not so insult the community of which they are a part, and of which, in this matter, they are but the servants and almoners, richly paid for the duties they perform by being made the channels through which its bounty passes. And, indeed, such is the alacrity and heartiness in this cause, that they have already received, even before the project was well brought before the public, such handsome and spontaneous offers from representatives of all departments of industry and commerce, that it is plain that this Fair will be not only an adequate expression of the loyalty, love, and devotion of the people of this city and State to their country and its defenders, but a grand and worthy Exposition of the Manufacturing, Agricultural, Commercial, Literary, and Artistic resources of New York.

The Fair being planned for these purposes, and under these auspices, its Managers invite all MERCHANTS, MANUFACTURERS, and ARTISANS to contribute of their wares to its stores, giving just such goods as they make or deal in—no matter what their character—just such goods as are made profitable to them by the power and prosperity of our country, which our soldiers and sailors are now fighting to maintain.

They invite the FARMERS from all the country round to visit the Fair, and bring with them gifts from their barns, their stalls, their dairies, and their poultry yards.

They ask the PAINTERS and SCULPTORS, who have done so much for the honor of our country, and all who are connected with the FINE ARTS, either as creators, as dealers, or as amateurs fortunate in the possession of Art Treasures, to send their contributions, for exhibition or for sale. A proper gallery will be erected for the display and the due preservation of such works.

The peculiar interest which attaches to Literature, warrants the establishment of a special department, to supply which PUBLISHERS and BOOKSELLERS are confidently looked to. In this department will be a SECOND-HAND BOOK STALL, to which contributions are asked from the shelves of those who are cumbered with duplicate copies, or who have books which they no longer use.

Connected with the department of Literature will be a table for the exposition and sale of valuable AUTOGRAPHS.

On the MUSICIANS, MUSICAL INSTRUMENT MAKERS, and MUSIC DEALERS, the Managers confidently rely for a worthy representation in this Fair of the beautiful art of which they are the ministers, by the giving of Musical performances, and of instruments and music for sale.

The Managers and Artists of the various THEATRES of the city are invited to follow the example already set by some of their number, in offering to set apart one evening during the Fair, the performances on which shall be for the benefit of its fund.

It is hoped that our PUBLIC SCHOOLS, and PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS of a benevolent character, may contribute in some fitting manner to the interest of this Fair.

To the public spirit and the patriotism of the FIRE DEPARTMENT and the POLICE, the Managers feel that they may look for even more than that habitually honorable and efficient discharge of duty on their part which would insure the preservation of property consecrated to the use of those who are suffering in their country's cause. But it is also hoped that in some other manner, as may be most agreeable to themselves, they may bear a part in this patriotic undertaking.

As appropriate to the occasion of this Fair a department of ARMS and TROPHIES will be established, to which not only arms and flags captured in the present war, but all articles of this kind which have an historical or an intrinsic interest will be acceptable contributions, either for sale or for exhibition.

An OLD CURIOSITY SHOP will afford all those persons who have interesting relics of the past in their possession to enable others to share the pleasure of examining them. Contributions of noteworthy character and value have already been received for this department. It should be particularly stated whether articles of this kind are for sale or only for exhibition.

A NEWSPAPER will be published daily, which, in addition to the latest telegraphic news up to the time of going to press, will contain short and piquant articles upon incidents of the day, and especially of the Fair.

A Post Office will be established, at the illegality of which it is hoped that the Honorable the Postmaster-General will wink, if official dignity be capable of such an act, and at the novel promptness and regularity of which it is believed the public will wonder.

As people cannot see all these things, and do all these things, and buy all these things, without exhaustion of the vital forces, a Restaurant of corresponding magnitude and completeness will be established, the arrangements of which, supervised by ladies and gentlemen of taste and discretion in such matters, will be in the immediate hands of an accomplished public caterer.

The accomplishment of this grateful but multitudinous task has been placed in the hands of the undersigned Executive Committees, who depend chiefly, however, upon the hearty co-operation of the General Committee of Managers, from which the body of the various Special Committees are mainly recruited.

A member of the Executive Committee will be at the head of each Special Committee, whether of ladies or of gentlemen. It is expected that the members of the ladies' and gentlemen's Special Committees will be in constant communication and act together, reporting through the respective heads of their committees to the respective Executive Committees.

It is intended that, if practicable, each city in the State which desires that its contributions shall be kept together, shall have a separate table or space specially set apart for them, and that each of these cities shall be represented in the General Committee of Management.

A certain number of each Executive Committee will be at its Office—the Ladies' at No. 2 Great Jones Street, the Gentlemen's at 842 Broadway, every day, from 10 A.M. to 4 P.M.

Contributions to the Fair are to be sent to the Receiving Depot, No. 2 Great Jones Street, where they will be credited to their givers, and their receipt acknowledged by the proper committee.

It is particularly requested that each contribution be plainly marked with the name of the contributor, for exposition during the Fair, and that each article be accompained by a memorandum of its value.

To carry out the design of the Fair in accordance with the spirit in which it has been planned, it has been thought proper to adopt the following

REGULATIONS.

1.—Every application by note for contributions shall be upon paper bearing the symbol of the Fair, and signed in writing by a member of the Executive Committee; and every member of a Special Committee shall be provided with a similar certificate of authority.

2.—It is earnestly requested that all contributions in money be sent to the Treasurer, to whose order all checks should be made payable.

3.—At the Fair every article shall be sold at its current market value, when that is determinable.

4.—In all raffles the number of tickets sold shall not exceed the original valuation of the articles raffled for.

5.—No person shall be importuned to buy articles or tickets for raffles.

6.—In every department a cashier shall be appointed to receive money and make change.

7.—No punch shall be sold.

OFFICERS.

LADIES' ASSOCIATION.

President, ...Mrs. Hamilton Fish.
First Vice-President, .. " David Lane.
Second Vice-President, " A. V. Stout.
Treasurer, ... " Ellen R. Strong.
Secretary, ... " John Sherwood.
Assistant Secretary, ...Miss Catherine Nash.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

[*Office No.* 2 *Great Jones Street.*]

Mrs. Marshall O. Roberts. Francis Lieber, William H. Van Buren, Richard M. Hunt, Jonathan Sturges, Alfred Schermerhorn, David Dudley Field, Samuel G. Courtney, Daniel Le Roy, Benjamin Nathan, John Jacob Astor, Gurdon Buck, Ogden Hoffman, Josiah S. Colgate, Frank E. Howe, John A. Dix, Alexander Hamilton, Jr., Thomas F. Meagher, Philip Hamilton, Frederick Billings, Morris Ketchum, Miss Catherine Hone.

GENTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION.

President, ...Major-Gen. John A. Dix.
First Vice-President, ...Mr. Jonathan Sturges.
Second Vice-President, . " James T. Brady.
Chairman of Gen. Com'ee " Wilson G. Hunt.
Secretary, ... " Rich'd Grant White.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

[*Office No.* 842 *Broadway.*]

Mr. George Griswold Gray, . . *Chairman.*
" Richard Grant White, . . . *Secretary.*

Messrs. Marshall O. Roberts, Arthur Leary, James L. Kennedy, Charles H. Marshall, Alex. Van Rensselaer, Nathaniel P. Hosack, Peter Marie, Abraham M. Cozzens, Lawrence R. Jerome, William T. Blodgett, Fletcher Harper, Lloyd Aspinwall, William Scharfenberg, Levi P. Morton, Christian E. Detmold, Henry Chauncey, Charles Astor Bristed, Thomas Acton, C. Godfrey Gunther, Henry S. Fearing, Augustus R. Macdonough, Francis A. Stout, James A. Roosevelt, Le Grand B. Cannon, Edward Delano, John F. Kensett, James F. Ruggles, Moses Lazarus, Joseph G. Heywood, Philetus T. Holt, Uriel A. Murdock, Elliott F. Shepard, Edward Matthews, S. B. Janes.

HEADS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES.*

Arrangements.—Mrs. R. M. Hunt. Mr. George Griswold Gray.

Art—Including Artists' Materials.—Mrs. Jonathan Sturges. Mr. John F. Kensett.

Arms and Trophies, including Sporting Materials.—Mr. William T. Blodgett.

Agricultural Products and Implements.—Mr. Nathaniel P. Hosack.

Bakers.—Mrs. Richard M. Hunt. Mr. Alexander Van Renssalaer.

Boots and Shoes.—Mrs. D. Bridgham. Mr. Francis A. Stout

Building.—Mr. George Griswold Gray.

Confectionery.—Mrs. H. Fay. Mr. Alexander Van Rensselaer.

Cabinet Work, Upholstery, Carpets, and Looking-Glasses.—Mrs. George M. Miller. Mr. James A. Roosevelt.

Charity.—Mrs. Ogden Hoffman.

Contributors from without the City.—Mr. Elliott T. Shephard.

Drama and Public Amusements.—Mrs. John Sherwood. Mr. Richard Grant White.

Dress Making.—Mrs. G. K. Forsyth.

Drugs and Perfumery.—Mrs. Wm. H. Van Buren. Mr. James L. Kennedy.

Furs, Hats and Caps, and Clothing.—Mrs. Jaudon. Mr. Henry S. Fearing.

Florists.—Mrs. Frank E. Howe.

Flour, Grain and Provisions.—Mrs. H. K. Bogert. Mr. Philetus H. Holt.

Finance.—Mr. Leonard W. Jerome. Mr. John H. Gourlie.

Hardware, House Furnishing, and Metals.—Mrs. Mitchell. Mr. Uriel A. Murdock.

India Rubber Goods.—Mrs. C. R. Degen. Mr. Francis A. Stout.

Jewelry and Retail Fancy Goods.—Mrs. William Parker. Mr. Peter Marie.

Lingeries and Trimmings.—Mrs. William T. Blodgett.

Millinery.—Mrs. Clymer.

Music—Including Musical Instruments.—Mrs. H. W. Hills. Mr. William Scharfenberg.

Newspaper.—Mrs. Charles Butler. Mr. Augustus R. Macdonough.

Old Curiosity Shop.—Mrs. Wolcott Gibbs.

Optical, Mathematical, and Surgical Instruments, Carriages and Saddlery.—Mr. Christian E. Detmold.

Plumbing, Gas-Fitting, Stoves and Heaters.—Mr. Edward Delano.

Porcelain and Glass.—Mrs. Thomas F. Meagher. Mr. Abraham M. Cozzens.

Police.—Mr. Thomas C. Acton.

Post Office.—Mrs. Charles E. Strong. Mr. Augustus R. Macdonough.

Printing, Stationery, Photographs, and Playing Cards.—Mr. James F. Ruggles.

Private Schools.—Mrs. Vincenzio Botta.

Public Charities.—Mrs. D. Fearing.

Public Conveyances and Transportation.—Mr. Le Grand B. Cannon.

Public Schools.—Mrs. George Vandenhoff. Mr. Richard Grant White.

Publishers and Booksellers.—Mrs. Francis Lieber. Mr. Fletcher Harper.

Receiving Committee.—Mrs. Alexander Hamilton. Mrs. Alfred Schermerhorn.

Restaurant.—Mrs. Marshall O. Roberts. Mr. Abraham M. Cozzens.

Retail Dry Goods.—Mrs. John Van Vechten.

Retail Groceries.—Mrs. De La Montaigne. Mr. Joseph C. Heywood.

Ships and Shipbuilding.—Mr. Charles H. Marshall.

Stonework and Masonry.—Mrs. Henry A. Coit.

Thread and Needles.—Miss Cary.

Toys and Small Wares.—Mrs. Sidney Ashmore. Mr. James L. Kennedy.

Visiting Committee.—Mrs. S. G. Courtney, Mrs. Gurdon Buck.

Wholesale Dry Goods.—Mrs. A. V. Stout. Mr. Levi P. Morton.

Wholesale Fancy Goods.—Mrs. Frank E. Howe.

Wholesale Groceries.—Mrs. William H. Aspinwall. Mr. Lloyd Aspinwall.

Wines, Liquors, Tobacco, Fruits, &c.—Mr. Henry Chauncey.

ELIZABETH G. SHERWOOD,
Sec. Ladies' Exec. Committee.

RICH'D GRANT WHITE,
Sec. Gentlemen's Exec. Committee.

* List of the members of the General Committee, and of the various Special Committees, will be published as soon as they are completed.

THE GREAT WESTERN SANITARY FAIR.

CINCINNATI, January 14, 1864.

REV. DR. H. W. BELLOWS,
President U. S. Sanitary Commission.

MY DEAR SIR: Your manuscript came duly to hand some days since, and was handed to the compiler of the history of our Fair.

I am glad to see the movements for your Metropolitan Fair. It ought to have the character from our chief city, and greatly exceed all that any other city could do. We here feel that those who have contributed have done nobly; but there are many who have up to this time denied themselves the satisfaction of having contributed to the comfort of our national defenders, through this Fair, the greatest ever yet held on this continent. Such may yet, by acting promptly, find their names recorded in our history as friends of our soldiers. We expect to realize at least $200,000 net. Unavoidable circumstances have operated against our realizing the sum we aimed at of $250,000. Those participating in the Fair have reason to be grateful for being able to devote that sum to the help and comfort of men who deserve tenfold more at the hands of their fellow-citizens.

It is a satisfaction to know that as yet Cincinnati is in advance of all others; but it would afford us more satisfaction to know that our Metropolitan city, so indebted to our Great West for its wealth and prosperity, would average at least one dollar to each of its population, and thus raise one million of dollars. The large population residing without the city limits, yet depending on the commerce of your city, ought

to contribute at least enough to make up any deficiency of your people to average one dollar each. Suppose they should thus do, how small a sum would that furnish, on an average, to each of our soldiers, sacrificing themselves that our and your lives and property should be sacred?

Some of your noble merchants and citizens, with a few of such in Boston and Philadelphia, have liberally contributed to our efforts to supply our soldiers without regard to their nativity or residence.

The moral power of the fairs that have been held is doing much to encourage re-enlisting, and to convince the South of the folly of persisting in its madness against a united North. It is beginning to be seen in the North that voluntary offerings of the people are more economical in outlay of money and life, than to simply depend on legal requirements. One million of dollars furnished by your city as a voluntary offering, will carry more power in it than an outlay of one hundred millions in the usual form of appropriations that the people would have to pay at last. It will not only discourage the rebels in the South, but their allies in the North. As a people, we must act for ourselves, and thus strengthen our Government, and shorten and cheapen the war in treasure and blood. Sound humanity and economy demand this of us.

Having the numbers, wealth, and interests to be promoted, you have only to will that you may thus act justly toward those sacrificing their all for you, and the million of dollars will promptly come, and no one feel the poorer for it. Less than that would not supply needed comforts for our soldiers, nor be a fit offering or example for the chief city of this continent. All Europe would be forced to respect you for it, while our Great West would honor and be proud of you for so doing.

I trust that amount will be your final report.

I am, respectfully, your obedient servant,

EDGAR CONKLING,
Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Great Western Sanitary Fair.

RELIEF WORK AT NEW ORLEANS.

Our special relief agent at New Orleans, Mr. Bullard, writes:

I herewith sent you a report of the Special Relief work in this department from the date of our organization to January 1st, 1864.

My communication will be limited to a statistical report of the "Soldiers' Home," as returned to me by the superintendent, Mr. Nute, since the transfer from the Western Sanitary Commission; and a brief record of the work in the Special Relief Office. The necessity for this office, and the importance of this branch of the work, were apparent from the first. There was some delay in organizing while the negotiations for the Home were pending, since the question of locality was one of considerable importance.

So far I have had the hearty co-operation of the several paymasters with whom I have come in contact. Every facility is afforded for the prompt and favorable settlement of all claims of invalid discharged soldiers, and for the adjustment of all imperfect papers which *can* be given in a department so far removed from Washington.

As it becomes known that there is an office in New Orleans, where all sorts of inquiries are kindly and freely answered, there is a daily increase of applicants for various degrees of assistance. The minor cases are made up, in part, from discharged soldiers, by questions of transportation, their just dues in mileage and subsistence, and the never-failing subject of bounties. Furloughed soldiers are constantly applying for information as to how they may draw the back pay on which they depend for means to defray their expenses, as they find themselves bewildered in a large city, and uncertain about the matter of transportation. Both of these classes of soldiers are deriving a great benefit from the Home. Many of them, after reaching New Orleans, perhaps from a distant part of the department, are obliged to wait here till a Government transport is ready for New York or Cairo. There have been times when "Military necessity" has called off all such boats for some expedition. Under such circumstances, the poor fellows must stay in this city at their own expense, perhaps for two or three weeks. Without the "Home" for a resting-place, it will be readily understood that such delay would be most disastrous to them.

When the cards and posters for this office were first issued, in which assistance was promised in the matter of arrears of pay, bounty, and pensions, it was supposed that very little could be done in this department other than on discharge papers, directly through the paymaster; and by directing discharged soldiers going home to reliable agencies north. But it soon became apparent that a large number of applications would be made from claimants for the pay and bounty of deceased Louisiana soldiers, and for pension. These claimants are mostly widows and dependent relatives, really needing all that is due from Government.

There are some difficulties attending this work here, not so common in other sections; some uncertainty as to what would be accepted in Washington; what evidence would be required of the loyalty of the claimants and witnesses. And in the present condition of the courts in this State, it was a question before whom to have the necessary acknowledgments made. I have arranged with the Judge of the First Justice Court, appointed by the Military Governor, who has very kindly offered to assist me in this work; and Governor Shepley will attach his official certificate to each application going to the Second Auditor's Office. The forms sent me do not indicate the necessity of such certificate on pension claims.

I have forwarded applications for three widows to the Second Auditor's, and for the same parties for pensions. One of these was a free colored woman; her husband died while in the service. She brought a certified copy of marriage license, and record of marriage; and one of the witnesses was the colored pastor who married them. We sent on this as a test. Probably there will be some trouble in furnishing satisfactory evidence of marriage relation in a majority of cases among the colored people.

Besides, I do not know what rule, if any, has been adopted relative to the Corps d'Afrique touching these matters.

Some dozen or more cases are either waiting further action, or have been dismissed as too questionable.

No special efforts are being made to increase this branch of the work, nor is it thought expedient to do so till we learn how our experiments have been received.

The office was opened about the 20th of November. But little was done during the first ten days. There was some delay in getting cards and posters printed and properly circulated, and considerable time necessarily consumed in completing the arrangements relative to the Home.

Up to January 1st, 1864, the number of cases recorded in the journal is forty-eight. Of these, twenty-one have received personal aid in the collection of their pay. Amount collected $3,289.44.

The Paymaster prefers that all soldiers who are able should present their own papers. He has shown great kindness in furthering my efforts in behalf of those needing assistance. I therefore make it a point to send to him such soldiers as can comfortably walk the short distance to his office, providing their papers are correct. By this course the Major understands that my object is simply to help those unable to help themselves. I am seldom denied any reasonable favor for a sick or wounded soldier.

The rule here with a discharged soldier is, for the Paymaster to give him an order for transportation, either to New York or to Cairo, and allow him mileage for the rest of the way to the place of enlistment, with the usual rate of subsistence for the whole distance. This order the Quartermaster endorses, giving the name of the transport on which it will be good for passage. The man gets by this simply steerage privileges, and takes along his own rations.

The very feeble can hardly endure the hardships of such transportation. The Paymaster makes exceptions in favor of extreme cases; and when I have stated that a man whose papers I hand in is not able to go by Government transport, he allows him mileage. I use this advantage cautiously, that I may not fail in the really deserving cases.

W. S. Bullard is acting as clerk in the office of the Home. The experience that he has acquired in Baltimore with soldiers' papers, enables him to be of considerable service to the Special Relief office while doing his work for the Home.

He is instructed to examine the papers of the discharged soldiers as they come in, and direct those who need no special aid to the Paymaster. This, of course, reduces the number of applicants at my office; but the work is done, and another object is attained. The soldier is put right at the start. If there is any thing wrong about the papers, or the soldier under false impressions thinks there is, it is better that these things be looked after before a collision with officials. I have during the past month kept approximate notes of the calls at this office for advice or direction, when not of such importance as to require record in journal. The number so recorded is about two hundred,

There is one noticeable point of difference between the Special Relief work in this department and that in Washington. So far, we have had no cases of discharged soldiers with those troublesome records against them on the rolls, of absence without leave, desertion, &c. This department is comparatively isolated. The men, when sick or wounded, are not exposed to an indefinite round of transfer from hospital to hospital, with a final drifting into Convalescent Camp, to be discharged without descriptive lists. The surgeon of a hospital, all of whose inmates are from the department, can generally, with proper effort, obtain the military history of each man before discharging him. Were it otherwise, it would be ex-

tremely difficult to get such papers corrected and approved at this distance from Washington.

Under the present arrangements of the Home great good is being done for the soldiers. Improvements in the working will be introduced as fast as they can be judiciously suggested.

A WORD ABOUT SALARIES.

WASHINGTON, January 13, 1864.

Dr. C. R. AGNEW,

MY DEAR SIR: You ask me to give you some information as to our Field Relief Corps in the Army of the Potomac, which I shall now attempt in as few words as possible.

At present we have one four-horse wagon and one cart, with twelve or fourteen team and saddle horses, mostly pretty thoroughly used up by hard work during the six months' service they have seen in the army.

Our field supply store-house is at Brandy Station, where the agents have their headquarters, and where also the two Sanitary Inspectors, Drs. Gordon Winslow and Isaac Fairchild, have their headquarters. The agents move from this central point out to their respective fields of duty, on horseback. The agent of the Fifth Corps is at present an exception to this rule, because that corps—being employed as railroad guard—is scattered over a very wide field, and hence the necessity that he should live in it. When at headquarters, they are all expected to help at all work required by the needs of the Sanitary Commission family—to build houses, cut wood, cook, issue goods, draw water, harness horses, feed and nurse wounded men—in short, to do good Samaritan work generally.

The estimated expense for the maintenance of this corps in winter is about $750 per month, which estimate will probably cover all the expense of the machinery for distributing supplies in the Army of the Potomac. I give the names of the corps and the pay allowed each man, which pay will hardly cover the expenses of clothing and sundries that are needed by these gentlemen. It will be understood that this subsistence is furnished by the Commission:

S. Warner Johnson, Superintendent, Volunteer.	
Capt. Isaac Harris, Assist. Supt.,	$60
Charles S. Clampitt, Field Storekeeper	45
Assist. "	45
Wm. F. Dubosq, Acting Relief Agent	45
S. M. Blazier, " " "	45
Charles C. Harris, " " "	45
George E. Holbrook, Relief Agent	45
David S. Pope, " "	45
W. C. Whittelsey, Messenger	45
Henry C. Freeman, Messenger	30
G. W. Norris, Teamster	30
Thomas Mulkearn, "	30
John Smith, "	30
Charles Toft, "	30
Oscar Little, "	30
Three colored men, (temporarily)	50
Subsistence for family about	100
	$750

The number of teamsters may seem large, but the men were each in charge of a team until the first instant; and rather than turn them adrift now in mid-winter, I propose to use them as cooks and general assistants—thus enabling us to get rid of our contraband assistants in the field. These teamsters also act occasionally as messengers, and lend some help at the central stables. As we had considerable trouble in securing reliable men for these positions, it was thought best to keep them in places where we would be obliged to secure other labor.

It is proper to state, in order that you may understand the real nature of the pittance paid this corps, that laborers in Washington receive from $1.25 to $1.50 per day; carpenters from $2.50 to $3.00; masons $3.00, and painters $3.00.

I should have stated, as the First Army Corps is quartered around Culpepper, that a sub-store-house has been established there, which is managed by Mr. Dubosq, aided by a teamster.

The results of the work of this corps can best be told by conversation with the medical directors of divisions and brigades, who have personally been made acquainted with it.

Yours, respectfully,

LEWIS H. STIMER,

Chief Inspector U. S. San. Com., Army of Potomac, etc.

It is sometimes said that the Commission spends large sums of money for salaries. The above simple statement may be taken as indicative of the principles which influence the Commission and its employees in the matter of salaries. The sums paid to the latter are such as would not secure in any industrial field the services of persons actuated merely by the desire to obtain a pecuniary return for their labor. The sums paid by us are barely sufficient for the maintenance of those whom we employ, most of whom carry to their duties a degree and character of self-denial and patriotic devotion, to which common delicacy forbids at this time prolonged allusion.

The following circular has been addressed to the Field Relief Corps of the United States Sanitary Commission by the Chief Sanitary Inspector of the Potomac Army. It will give an idea of the care taken by the Commission in this part of their work:

It is desired that visits on the part of the agents be not only made to division hospitals, but also that regimental hospitals be visited; and above all, that the agents become acquainted with the wants of the *men*. While you should cultivate the most intimate relations with the officers, you must recollect that the relief of suffering and want among the men is the end and design of the Field Relief Corps; that it is for this the liberal people of our land are freely spending their money, and to this object every relief agent in the Field Corps must consider himself devoted. What has been known as special relief, that is, relief to individual cases, must be frequently administered. Find out where want and suffering exist, try to alleviate them—*through* the surgeons, if possible—if not in this way, then *with* the surgeon's consent. Let instances of this kind fill your reports. They will tell in the way of stimulating the people to additional liberality. And, moreover, weekly reports, giving a journal of each day's work, must be sent in. This rule, as I have stated in my letter of 9th inst., is imperative.

Your attention is asked to the following rules, which were issued July 30, 1863, for the governance of the Field Corps:

"The relief agents, after their assignment to corps by the superintendent, will remain in connection with the same until relieved. Leaves of absence for twenty-four hours may be granted by the superintendent; when a longer furlough is required, it must be approved by the Chief Inspector, or some one representing him at his office. In every case of a visit to Washington, the agent must report at the office of the Chief Inspector.

"Although relief agents may have been assigned to corps, it is not to be understood by them that their duties end with these. Wherever want in the army comes to their knowledge in field hospital, in regiment, or in the single soldier by the wayside, it is their duty to try and alleviate it.

"The agents must look upon themselves as helpers, and not interferers with the routine of military duty. They have no time for what is known as indolent pleasure. So long as they remain in the field, energetic work is required. When the system will not admit of this, they should ask at once to be relieved by other and fresher spirits.

"As most of the acting relief agents are new to the work, it has been deemed proper to give the views held as regulating and governing the corps by the Inspector in charge."

"SOLDIERS' HOMES" IN TENNESSEE.

The reports from the Soldiers' Lodge at Memphis, Tennessee, for the five weeks ending January 2d, show that during that period the number admitted was 1,962, coming from seventeen different States. The number of meals furnished was 6,354; the number of lodgings, 1,849. The average number cared for each day was, the first week, 116; the second, 91; the third, 103; the fourth, 136; and the fifth, 99. Transportation was procured for 59; defective papers were corrected for 14; 13 were aided in drawing pay. At the Nashville Home there have been admitted, during the five weeks ending January 2d, 2,367, coming from seventeen different States. The number of meals furnished was 8,149; the number of lodgings, 3,735. The average number cared for each day was, the first week, 166; the second, 184; the third, 155; the fourth, 201; the fifth, 159. Transportation was procured for 1,228. and 107 were aided in drawing pay. The total amount of pay collected and paid over during the five weeks, was $15,215.45.

CORRESPONDENCE.

IRVINGTON, *West Chester Co.*,
January 20th.

To the Editor of the Sanitary Bulletin:

In these days of monster city fairs, it may interest some of your readers to hear how a village fair, recently held in Irvington, N. Y., was started and carried through, and what its results have been.

This village, like so many others, began early in the war, with sewing circles contributing to the comfort of our soldiers, through the Sanitary Commission. As times went on, the interest in the meetings flagged; they grew smaller, and finally ceased—when last summer the ladies again took hold of the work in earnest, and reorganized their society, adopting a plan circulated by the Woman's Central Association of Relief.

The principal feature of this plan is, to make the young people connected with the society support it, by collecting a monthly subscription of not over twenty cents a head. By keeping strictly to the rules of the society, and enforcing them in a business-like manner, a matter which "Soldiers' Aid Societies" are too apt to neglect, the new society worked admirably. Its meetings were so well attended, that the funds proved inadequate to supply material for the ready workers. So a fair was proposed, was planned, and worked for with some hesitations and anticipations of small results. To the surprise of those engaged in it, they soon found the interest of the whole neighborhood gathered around their modest undertaking. The whole village took it up as *their* Fair. Everybody wished to have a hand in it. Some one stood ready to give the room; another to furnish a stove; others to clean the room and get

it in order; and so on down to the very boards that made the tables. Labor, policeing, all—was freely given, with a heartiness and good will which surprised and delighted the managers. The result was, that in a village of twelve years' growth, this Fair, open only for one day, secured to the society, with all expenses paid, seventeen hundred dollars.

Three hundred dollars of this were sent, by a unanimous vote of the ladies, to the Treasurer of the U. S. Sanitary Commission. It seemed but little to send, they thought, "but it might make three hundred men a little more comfortable."

To J. Foster Jenkins, M.D.
General Secretary.

Dear Sir: At Elmira, N. Y., the Commission has a home. It lives in the hearts of the people of that enterprising town. The following are some of the evidences of it: On the 15th of July, 1862, they established a Soldiers' Home, near to the Railroad Depot, furnished it with cots, beds, &c., and opened it for the reception of soldiers who pass over the great throughfare to the Capital from Central New York. The funds for its organization were contributed by a dramatic and musical association which was raised for the purpose.

The Misses Tyler devote their time to the care of the sick and homeless, of whom five thousand and seven hundred have been cared for. It is conducted on the same principle and under the same inspiring genius that has animated and sustained all the Homes and Lodges of the Commission in other places. The State has recently appropriated two thousand dollars for its support, and thus the people are set free from any local hinderance to their laboring heartily for the general work. As the average expense of maintaining it is not more than seventy dollars per month the State appropriation will sustain it for a long time.

On Sunday evening, the 10th inst., a large and enthusiastic meeting was held at Ely Hall, and it was my privilege to meet the various clergymen and a multitude of citizens there in behalf of the Commission. The churches being generally closed by common consent, there was no interruption to a full attendance. The Rev. Dr. Lincoln of the Baptist church presided. At the close of the address the Rev. Dr. Curtis offered a resolution endorsing the principles and plans of the Commission, and urging its claims upon the people by forcible remarks. Rev. T. K. Beecher seconded the resolution, by an earnest speech. The resolution was adopted by the standing vote of the great congregation. On Monday evening a conference of some fifty or more of the leading minds of the town was held to perfect a systematized plan of collecting stated subscriptions from the people; and the ministers of the different congregations agreed to keep the people educated to the work, by holding quarterly union meetings, one of their members to address the people on the current history of the war and the operations of the Commission.

Mrs. A. Stuart, the associate manager, and her co-laborers in the cause, are most earnest and thorough, and much may be expected of them in the future. The smaller places in the surrounding country are being awakened, and you will soon hear of the Southern Tier Sanitary Fair in such a way as will do good to your honored Treasurer. In my next I will furnish you with an account of the Fair, if the good ladies of Chemung, will have it completed by that time. They are resolved to do a good work.

North Pitcher, Chenango Co., N. Y.,
January 15, 1864.

George T. Strong, Esq:

Dear Sir: Enclosed please find draft for $146.15—the result of a festival held for the benefit of our sick and wounded soldiers. We did not know whether it would be better to send the cash, or purchase goods and manufacture garments. Will you, in your receipt, please state which would be best, as it may govern us in the future.

This contribution is from a section of the country that is sparsely settled; no village—but a farming community. It is nothing more than what any neighborhood might raise by a little effort. All we did was to give notice that there would be a festival for the sick and wounded soldiers, and all that attended would be expected to bring in some refreshments. Also, the young people got up a little entertainment, by the way of scenes, tableaux, &c., &c., at the conclusion, solicited donations, the result of which, to our surprise, amounted to over one hundred and fifty dollars.

All it wants in almost any community, is for a few active men and women to start, and the like result may be obtained.

Yours, truly,
J. S. Blackman.

Rondout, N. Y.

"It would give us great satisfaction to contribute to the *Bulletin* some information that would encourage and stimulate our fellow workers everywhere; but unfortunately our

Society has had a struggling existence, and owes its continuance to a faithful few. We have received during the past week forty dollars from one of our young men, the amount realized from the sale of an old watch bequeathed him by his grandfather, and for many years an heir-loom. Perhaps this may remind some one of some like treasure hidden and useless except as an heir-loom, and suggest how greatly enhanced its value as such must be by being devoted to such a cause."

"WHY DOES THE COMMISSION PAY SALARIES TO ITS AGENTS?"

The Commission has from the first enjoyed a degree of public favor and confidence greater than it had any right to expect. Certain objections, however, are made to its system and methods which require a brief notice, though they have for the most part been already anticipated.

The objection that has been made to its employing permanent salaried officers, instead of unpaid volunteers, giving a fortnight or a month each to the work of Army Relief, is untenable and short-sighted. It has to distribute millions of dollars worth of bulky stores over an area of many thousand square miles. This is, in a merely business point of view, a work of serious magnitude. It is, moreover, a work of special delicacy and difficulty, because it must be so done as not to interfere with the machinery of the army, or weaken the reliance of the men upon their officers. Without a corps of agents who understand their work, give their whole time to it, and are bound to perform definite service during a definite period, loss, waste, and misapplication of supplies are inevitable. This branch of the Commission's work may fairly be compared with that of our largest railroads and express companies, and is at least as worthy of being well and economically done. But how long would any railroad corporation keep out of the hands of a Receiver, if it confided its freight business to volunteers over whom it could exercise no real control, and who felt themselves at full liberty to leave its service whenever they tired of it, or whenever they thought themselves overworked or unfairly criticized, instead of employing superintendents, clerks, and porters, engaged in the usual way and on the usual terms? The poetry of the Relief Agent's work may be spoiled if he receive a salary, but in ninety-nine cases out of a hundred its practical value to the army is doubled. It would be easy to name splendid exceptions to this rule, but they are only exceptions.

The work of Army Relief, like every other practical and serious business, requires skill which can be got only by experience, and men cannot, as a general rule, be secured for service long enough to acquire experience and skill, unless they receive moderate pay. But the difference between a skilled and an unskilled agent is equal to a difference of at least fifty per cent. in the amount of practical good each can do the soldier with the stores entrusted to him; and it costs the Commission less than two per cent. on the estimated value of its supplies to distribute them through skilled salaried agents, instead of unskilled volunteers. This is not all. The volunteer is necessarily unacquainted with the complex regulations under which Government supplies the wants of the Army, for thorough familiarity with their practical working can be acquired only by months of actual contact and experience. He cannot tell, therefore, when called upon to relieve a regiment or a hospital, whether its officers have done or have neglected their duty, and whether they can or cannot promptly obtain what is needed through regular official channels. His impulses prompt him of course instantly to relieve the suffering he sees before him. He distributes his supplies at once, asking no questions, and goes home thankful that he has been enabled to relieve so much destitution and distress. But he has too often been merely covering up the shortcomings of some inefficient officer paid by Government to do precis ly the same thing, and has thus shielded him from exposure and dismissal, and done the army in the long run more harm than good.

The Commission avoids this danger. It reserves its supplies for the cases of accidental failure which must from time to time occur in the working of every military system, and especially of one newly organized on so vast a scale as ours, and seeks rather to strengthen the official agencies through which Government provides for the army, than to set itself up as a rival source of supply, and thus weaken the confidence of the men in their military superiors.

The more general charge that the Commission's system is a costly one, is believed to be wholly unfounded. Its salaries are on a most moderate scale. It may be proper here distinctly to state, that no member of the Commission receives, or ever has received, a dollar from its treasury, or from any other quarter, in the shape of salary, or compensation for his services as Commissioner. Four of its members hold office, viz.: its President, Vice-President, and Treasurer, and its Associate Secretary at Louisville. Of these, the first three have been able to do their official work without absolutely sacrificing all their other duties, and they have done it without dreaming of "pay" from any quarter.

The Associate Secretary, who has removed his home from Cleveland to Louisville, abandoned his profession, and devoted his whole time and energies to his official work, receives a moderate salary. Thanks to the co-operation of Government and the liberality of Railroad, Telegraph, and Express Companies, and other private agencies, its expenses for transportation and telegraphing are not one-tenth of what they would otherwise be. A reference to the statistics given in Document 69 of the cost of its special relief system at Washington, Alexandria, and Annapolis, show how much work it has done at comparatively trifling expense. The value of the supplies it has actually issued to the army from its numerous depots, East and West, can only be estimated, and these estimates vary largely, the lowest estimate being about four millions of dollars, and the highest exceeding seven.

These supplies have been carried all over the country, from Maine to Texas, and from Washington to Vicksburg, in charge of special agents, and deposited in Relief Stations where store-keepers are necessarily engaged to protect them, and Relief Agents to distribute them; yet this great mass of bulky stores has been moved, stored at the depots, moved to the front, stored again in temporary depots, and then distributed, at a total expense to the Central Treasury of less than one and seven-eighths per cent. on their lowest valuation.

The Commission is of course the permanent subject of a due proportion of the swarms of "authentic statements," "valuable reports," which are daily put in circulation about the army and everybody connected with it; and that as regards the Commission many of them are disparaging, need excite no surprise.

It must be remembered that the work of the Commission necessarily makes it enemies. Medical and other officers who know that their incapacity or indolence has been detected and noted by a relief agent or inspector, naturally think it a meddlesome and mischievous organization, and are always ready to report, and sometimes to embellish and magnify, every case of failure in its work. Officers of the Medical Staff who stood high on the list, and were expecting speed promotion and additional rank and emoluments, when Government was prevailed on to fill the higher offices of the Medical Bureau according to ability, and not, as before, according to seniority, (or, in other words, by selecting the best man instead of the oldest,) cannot be expected to admire the Sanitary Commission. Some of them think (very naturally) that it has "ruined the service," and are not disinclined to believe and to endorse any story that tells against it. Many of our most thoughtful and far-sighted people, misinformed as to its aim and policy, suppose it to seek merely the immediate relief of the sick or wounded soldier, at any cost to military self-reliance and discipline, and distrust it accordingly. Thousands of warm-hearted and energetic men and women, diligently laboring for portions of the army through State agencies and local societies, find the Sanitary Commission throwing cold water on their work, because it is not conformed to the system which the Commission holds to be the most economical, the most National, and altogether the best. They cannot help becoming more or less prejudiced against the Commission, which seems thus to discourage and discredit what they rightly feel to be the most unselfish and the most important work of their lives, and they are thus unconsciously predisposed to believe any thing they may hear against it.

MISUSE OF SANITARY STORES.

Many good people, and a still greater number of that class to whom censure and grumbling and the rumination of troubles are as the breath of life, have no little misgiving as to the final disposition made of the overflowing bounties distributed to the army through the medium of the Sanitary Commission. Do the ones for whom they are meant receive them? Do they get the larger part of them even? Or does the lion's share filter out in passing through the hands of various officials, between the donor and the sick soldier in hospital? We have labored, and still labor, and shall so continue to do, to give the public all the light we can, all we have and all we can obtain on the subject. None can feel more solicitous than we in regard to it. No insignificant part of the labors of our agents in the field, and of our own in the collection and publication of reports and statistical information, springs from this solicitude. We are a part of that public whom we address, and share, we trust, in the fullness of its anxiety respecting the welfare of our army and the triumph of our arms.

But aside from this, our official relations to the sanitary work naturally enough give an added and special intensity to the interest we hold in common with others.

Let us look the question then squarely in the face. Our means of knowledge respecting it are various, and not lacking in abundance. We have well-organized agencies, as everybody by this time is aware, in all parts of the grand army. These agencies are intrusted with a variety of duties. Prominent among these is *hospital visiting*. That is, an inspecting from day to day and time to time, of the personal condition of the patients—the food they eat, the clothing they wear, the general comforts with

which they are surrounded or which they lack. Inquiring as to the sanitary supplies on hand or in demand is included in this inspection. And to this the number of casual visitors—persons in search of sons, brothers, husbands, or persons voluntarily spending a brief period of observation and of benevolent labor in all the larger hospitals within and beyond army lines, and one can see that it would be not a little surprising if any flagrant, persistent, or very considerable purloining of sanitary stores could escape detection. We can give unqualified assurance to those who are unaffectedly anxious on this subject, that there is no difficulty in procuring due punishment and adequate prevention where detection does occur. Army orders in regard to this and all other kinds of plundering from hospital stores are stringent, and extremely plain and definite. No official would venture to neglect the execution of them on others, where occasion required it, not though he should chance to be secretly a culprit of the same sort himself. And again, it must not be overlooked that Government has a corps of Medical Inspectors—sixteen in number—distributed throughout the military districts of the country, a part of whose duties is to look into this very matter of the appropriation and consumption of hospital stores. In addition to this, nearly every army corps has one or more of its surgeons detailed to inspection duty, with functions every way similar to those of the regular inspectors. The reader will thus perceive that the means of detecting and correcting mal-practice of whatever kind on the part of hospital attendants are not wholly omitted, to say the least. And with the information furnished us from these several and important sources, we feel qualified to answer the question: "Is there any considerable or constant diversion of sanitary stores from their legitimate destination?" And we are glad to be able to answer, *There is not.* Instances of plundering do certainly occur from time to time, both in hospital and while the stores are *in transitu* between donor and patient. Instances of the former kind cannot be many times repeated without detection, whilst the amount of loss from plundering during transportation is, all things considered, surprisingly small. Where an abuse of the kind occurs in hospitals and is found out, the people at home are pretty sure to hear of it, whilst the *correction* of the abuse, however prompt it may have been, is not so likely to transpire. We have personally known instances of just this kind, where corrected abuses have been published—all but the correction. And can readily understand, therefore, how the gravity of such cases gets overrated, and how the cases themselves awaken unnecessary apprehension amongst the friends and contributors of the Commission, and furnish an unfortunate resource to captious and inborn fault-findings. The reader will see that the way of the transgressor is hard in this *stealing* (to put it in square honest Saxon) of sanitary stores. But there is unquestionably a small per centage of loss to be abstracted as a constant sum from the noble bounties of the Commission. Taking the whole army and the entire field of war into account at once, and an eye that could sweep the whole at a glance, would probably witness this most despicable species of theft somewhere within those wide limits as a constant fact. But whilst a constant fact to the witness, it would be a variable one with any given offender and in any given locality.

We have repeatedly had this experience—too often, in fact, to enable us to recall any signal examples—namely: We have asked some patient in a hospital if he ever received any thing from the Sanitary Commission, and received a prompt and emphatic "No" for an answer. Farther inquiry develops the fact that he has been for weeks the daily recipient of sanitary stores—both food and clothing. We have known persons of irreproachable integrity perpetrate just this absurdity, (for we cannot call it falsehood.) The patient, finding his own personal condition decidedly uncomfortable, and that he is only moderately well off for external comforts, not unnaturally concludes that he is indebted to Government for what little relief he does receive. He is not informed by nurse or surgeon where a given article administered to him may have come from. It is not practicable that he should be. Surgeons and nurses have enough to do with that omitted. And articles of diet are not likely to bear the Sanitary stamp, when cooked and ready for the palate. And if they did, many a patient, from lack of observing habits or from the gravity of his illness, would fail to see it. They frequently fail to see it on the very clothing that invests their persons. Many a rumor, painful and mischievous in its effects, has had just this kind of origin. We have never when in the field neglected to trace up all reports of the plundering of our stores, which gave the least promise of having a foundation, and we generally find them ending in some such smoke as this. And if otherwise, and an offense is eventually discovered, we have never encountered difficulty or delay in having the offender punished, and the way blocked to the repetition of the offense.

The actual percentage of loss to Sanitary stores in transit from donor to patient, "by flood and field," it is impossible to give with any considerable accuracy. But we feel justified in saying with absolute certainty that it is small; and whatever the amount is we should be spurred by it

rather than depressed. The means of prevention being as nearly complete and as extensively applied as the nature of the case will admit of, we must put down the losses that occur in spite of these means, as a part of the inevitable course of things, an item in the inexorable statistics of crime.—*Sanitary Reporter.*

THE CRIMEAN WAR—THE BRITISH ARMY AND MISS NIGHTINGALE. By Charles Shrimpton. M. D.

We regret that we have not space for a lengthened review of a pamphlet bearing the above title. The following quotations contain many principles and deductions applicable to our present national experience:

Doctor Shrimpton says: "It is one of the greatest characteristics of the present age, that the cause of humanity is become identified with the strength of armies. The history, then, of a war can no longer be confined to bare details of the plans of battles, and of the manœuvres of armies; we must refer to other elements, and principally to the *sanitary condition of troops, as the causes of our victories, or the reasons for our disasters.* The historian, in following soldiers in their campaigns, should note every thing that may be favorable or unfavorable to their sanitary condition; and, consequently, he should not neglect any opportunity of exposing every error that may be committed on this important point, from whatsoever source it may spring. There are particularly two important results to be obtained from this scrupulous care in compiling the history of a war. The first is, that of reducing to less than half the mortality of those brave soldiers who so generously shed their blood for their country; the second, merely a corollary of the first, that by reducing the mortality of soldiers the strength of armies will be proportionably increased, and thus very often the fortune of war decided."

Dr. Shrimpton then alludes to some of the more prominent causes of the fearful sickness and mortality among the British forces during the first twelve months subsequent to their reaching the Crimea. He says the British army was deficient in "Military Administration;" that is, in a method of co-ordinating the different branches of administration—such as victualling, clothing, forage, hospitals, campment, transport service, and corps of workmen.

"Even Malta, a British colony, was taken by surprise by the arrival of the British troops; and at Gallipoli the same neglect was repeated, the British Consul there was not informed that English troops were to arrive."

"When the British troops arrived at Gallipoli, they were three days in landing, and had neither mattresses nor blankets for the men, nor medicines nor shelter for the sick." The French did not suffer, because every thing had been provided for them by the centralizing power of the "Intendant-Général." While the French had plenty to eat, the wants of the English may be described by the condition of the men of the Ninety-third Regiment, "who were obliged to kill the oxen which had brought their baggage on the 'arabas' or rough carts of the country, and thus deprived themselves of their only means of transportation."

While our armies have not suffered as the English army did in the Crimea, we have had abundant reason to regret the want of some such co-ordinating functionary as the "Intendant-Général" of the French army, an officer only subordinate to the commanding officer, and charged with the duty of having food, shelter, medicines, clothing, and means of transportation at the right place at the right moment.

Dr. Shrimpton attributes the fearful mortality among the British troops to the great want of prevision in the matters alluded to above.

Dr. Shrimpton testifies as to the absolute necessity of having female nurses in the General Hospitals, "for," says he, quoting from Mr. Sidney Herbert, "hospital orderlies must be very rough hands."

DIMINUTION OF DRUNKENNESS IN THE BRITISH ARMY; ITS PROBABLE CAUSES.

[Extracted from London Lancet, Dec'r, 1863, p. 806.]

It is difficult from a mere "return" to arrive at any just conclusion as to the causes which have influenced the increase or decrease of intemperance in the several portions of the army located in different districts of the kingdom. Drunkenness is a vice dependent on such various causes apart from locality, that it would be satisfactory to have some further particulars on the subject. All causes which have a tendency to depress the mental or physical condition of the soldier, have more or less power over his habits with respect to drink.

We learn that the annual report on military prisons presents some curious statistics of the number of soldiers committed for being drunk. In the five years, 1848–'52, the annual commitments in England average seventy eight in ten thousand on the force stationed in England. In Scotland the average was one hundred and twenty-two in ten thousand in the force stationed there. In Ireland two hundred and one. In the next five years the average fell to seventy-three in England, sixty-four in Scotland, and one hundred and forty-four in Ireland. In the last five years it has been seventy-nine in England, only twenty-nine in Scotland, and but sixty-eight in Ireland.

It will be seen that the decline of the commitments is enormous, but still greater in Scotland. The returns are not according to nationality of the men, but locality of station.

Is not this gratifying result due to the improvement in the construction of soldiers' barracks, which has been brought about by the intelligent labors of the first Sanitary Commission appointed by the British Government? There is no measure more likely to lessen the vice of drunkenness amongst soldiers than providing them with comfortable quarters, reading-rooms, and innocent amusements for their leisure hours.

[Eds.]

THE NEGRO TROOPS.

The French Mexican expedition furnished an additional example of the freedom of the negro race from the diseases which, in hot climates, exert so devastating an effect upon whites. M. Reynaud, Inspector-General of the Marine force in Mexico, addresses a letter to the Academy of Medicine, in which he states that the last epidemic of yellow fever exemplifies the above fact, just as did that of 1862; while the yellow fever produced great numbers of victims amongst the Europeans employed at Vera Cruz and the fort St. Jean d'Ulloa, not a single death from this cause occurred among more than 600 soldiers and sailors from the West Indies, almost all of them yet undergoing the most trying labor.—*American Medical Times.*

A DINNER IN CAMP.

Wagons accompanied by strong guards have been sent out, in the direction of saw-mills and houses, for boards and bricks. Many have returned laden with these rich and valued spoils. Nothing is more sought after, better appreciated, or more ingeniously used in this army, than boards. With a few of these for his bed, table, chair, &c., and a few bricks for his chimney, your soldier with his shelter-tent builds him a comfortable domicile, and lives well.

When in a permanent camp, where supplies are readily sent to the army, the soldier gets his full rations and is satisfied with them. Within the last few days he has been drawing in the way of vegetables, potatoes, onions, and turnips.

The other day I received a pressing invitation to dine with some of the men. "They were nicely fixed, and wanted me to see how they lived." Some dozen or fifteen of them had obtained permission to occupy a kind of barn, formerly used as a corn-house. It was divided into three apartments; the men divided into three messes. With one of these I dined. There were two other guests, and the preparations were extensive. Early in the morning they began to clear up, &c. When I arrived all hands were busy; one cooking this and another fixing that, and so on. The most noticeable thing was the cook-stove; which, one of their number, remembering sufficient of the craft he used to practice when a civilian, extemporized out of old camp-kettles, spades, and a part of a mowing machine, and an excellent thing it was both for warmth and utility.

Our dinner was well-cooked, and in abundance. Bill of fare consisted of soup, beefsteak, fresh bread and butter, coffee, mashed potatoes, roasted ditto, fried onions, turnips, &c., and peaches and milk. The latter luxury was obtained in this way: Mine host, the sergeant —formerly a squire—a man of good education and culture, the ruler in the company, the oracle, consulted on all affairs of general interest, very popular, a pleasant talker. The men laugh at his sayings, quote them, and love him. He is very generous and open-hearted. One of the men being sick, the squire purchased some peaches for him, at enormous prices, from the fleecers of the army, (the sutlers.) The friend recovered, and the peaches were forgotten until to-day. After dinner we had music—the banjo—the favorite instrument in the army—singing and dancing. They told me that they managed to live in camp right along in this way. None of them liked the life of a soldier, might perhaps re-enlist, would make the best of events that turn up, were sort of contented, and would live as jolly as they could. This mess represents a fair average of what might be found throughout the corps.—*Extract from Report of Relief Agent, Sixth Corps, Army of Potomac.*

AN OFFICER ON THE COMMISSION.

I have referred to the Sanitary Commission; and no one could visit these hospitals without becoming a firm believer in the importance and value of this institution as supplementary to the regular surgical department.

So extensive are the ramifications of this Commission, and so thoroughly have its agents been drilled in the good work, and so completely has it the confidence and aid of the Government officials, that one dollar expended through its channels is equal to three expended by private benevolence or State societies. It is natural that our kind-hearted women should desire that their offerings should go to their special friends, though if they reflect, they could hardly wish that one man should enjoy those delicacies, while his brothers in patriotic devotion, the men who stood shoulder to shoulder with him in the hour of trial, are left without them. Surely, if there be a place in the world for impartiality in the distribution of articles of comfort and solace, it is the hospital of those who have been wounded in a common cause; besides, this private bounty is simply impossible. What we need is, to have these supplies ready at once, even before the battle is over, and this is the well-performed office of the Sanitary Commission.

I believe that this Commission is one of the first fruits of our most advanced Christian civilization, the first inroad into the domain of war of a practical Christianity which shall yet throttle and destroy this demon forever. When I seek to estimate its value and significance in its various supervisory, reformatory, and scientific, as well as benevolent operations, to say nothing of those exceedingly valuable statistical collections which are to be the corner-stones of future history, I confess I know of no calculus

by which correctly to compute them. Could the tens of thousands of the blue uniformed sufferers it has relieved utter their testimony, we might reach some adequate expression.—*Captain Noyes in the "Bivouac and the Battle-field."*

QUININE AS A PREVENTIVE OF MALARIAL DISEASE.

Dr. J. W. Page, Inspector for United States Sanitary Commission in Department of North Carolina and Virginia, reports that the greatest benefit to the health of the forces stationed in the malarial regions about Newbern, has resulted from the regular administration of a quinine ration to the men. It is gratifying to hear this statement from Dr. Page, whose long residence in the malarial regions of North Carolina makes him a critical observer. One of the earliest efforts of the Commission, in the direction of the prevention of disease in the army, was to impress upon commanding officers and the Government the prophylactic or preventive powers of quinine. All who are familiar with the Medical Documents of the Commission, will remember the able and exhaustive Monograph by Dr. Wm. H. Van Buren on this subject. From all the columns operating in malarial regions, we have heard nothing to impair our belief in the value of quinine as a preventive of malarial disease. It should be taken in doses of three grains at bed-time, and two or three in the morning, continuously, through the malarial season. Its value is enhanced when given in connection with coffee. It is scarcely necessary to state that the curative power of quinine is greatly lessened in the case of those who have become saturated with fever and ague poison, by long residence in malarial regions; of course, the experience of such persons cannot be taken as impairing one's belief in the preventive power of the agent.

THE VENTILATION OF THE IRON-CLADS.

The good fortune of meeting with intelligent medical officers of the Navy has enabled the writer to compare notes upon important questions, that relate alike to military and to naval hygiene, and to the relative status of medical officers in these two branches of national service. In this letter I will refer only to one or two of the hygienic questions. In a number of the MEDICAL TIMES some time ago, you rather sharply called attention to the sanitary condition of the *Monitors* and iron-clad gunboats. The questions to which you then solicited official attention were at that time receiving the earnest and intelligent consideration of the best men in the medical service of the navy. We hazard nothing in asserting that the *savant* or the mechanical engineer who will devise and put into successful operation a system of ventilation that will supply fresh air to the cabins, quarters, and berth-decks of the *Monitors*, at the rate of from five hundred to one thousand cubic feet per hour, to each man of the ship's company, will confer a priceless boon upon the crews and officers of those new war-vessels, and at the same time will do his country a patriotic service scarcely inferior to that rendered by the renowned ERICSSON himself.

Only think of the sanitary prospects of eighty or a hundred men shut up in a submerged iron encasement, with only about sixty-five cubic feet of air-space to each person, and that sepulchral atmosphere unchanged, except by the very imperfect process of "blowing" a feeble current from the "turret." According to our own rough estimate, each man during battle, or in a sea at all rough, when scuttles and hatches must be closed, would receive *less than two cubic feet per minute* of fresh air for respiration. Add to this the inevitable humidity and the excessive heat and darkness of the *Monitors*, and you have the elemental and *inevitable* causes of a fearfully high invalid-rate.

Is there no *intro-mechanist* who will immediately devise the means for remedying this evil? We venture to offer the clue to the desired invention by saying that the ventilation must be secured upon the *vacuum* principle, or by suction of the foul air, and not by the present inoperative *plenum* or blowing method. Even for the ventilation of ordinary transport ships, the problem of effective ventilation depends mainly upon the means and certainty of *egress of foul air*. No plenum blowing in a *Monitor* will ever accomplish the desired result, except at the expense of the invulnerability of the war ship itself. Mr. ERICSSON has provided fans *in the turrets*, but it is not pure fresh air they blow; and even the broken current of the impure air they do control, is sent first down to the hold, then, after feeding the furnace fires, it slowly mixes with the yet impure air of the berth-deck and officers' quarters.

Nothing is plainer than that there must be a specific method and power of *egress* for the foul air, and this fact is so well stated in a brochure just placed in our hands by the Sanitary Commission [*Medical Document* S. *Hints for the Control of Infectious Diseases in Camps, Transports, and Hospitals*], that we beg leave to quote a paragraph relating to this point:

"The special improvements or works for ventilation in ordinary transports, consist mainly in greatly increasing the area and the places of *egress for foul air*. This is best effected, temporarily, by increasing the area of the windows and air-shafts at the stern, and, if admissible, elsewhere. The *ingress of fresh air* is easily provided for, after establishing the channels and amount of outlet."

After showing how egress may be given to the foul air of a ship's decks, the author says that the methods he advises for employment in crowded transports, "will provide 1,000 cubic feet of fresh air per hour to each man, in a vessel sailing five knots an hour; but, *if no special outlets are provided, even twice the number of wind-sails, all injecting, would fail even to supply at the rate of 100 cubic feet per hour.*" But the inventor of the *Monitors* has attempted to ventilate those remarkable gunboats by the hopeless plan of *blowing* down through the turret, which is like blowing into a bottle through its neck.

In a future communication your readers shall have the results of some observations upon the ventilation of tents and barracks.

—*Medical Times.*

NOTES ON NURSING.

PETTY MANAGEMENT.

All the results of good nursing, as detailed in these notes, may be spoiled or utterly negatived by one defect, viz.: in petty management, or in other words, by not knowing how to manage that what you do when you are there, shall be done when you are not there. The most devoted friend or nurse cannot be always *there*. Nor is it desirable that she should. And she may give up her health, all her other duties, and yet, for want of a little management, be not one-half so efficient as another who is not one-half so devoted, but who has this art of multiplying herself—that is to say, the patient of the first will not really be so well cared for as the patient of the second.

It is as impossible in a book to teach a person in charge of sick how to *manage*, as it is to teach her how to nurse. Circumstances must vary with each different case. But it *is* possible to press upon her to think for herself: Now what does happen during my absence? I am obliged to be away on Tuesday. But fresh air, or punctuality, is not less important to my patient on Tuesday than it was on Monday. Or: At 10 P. M. I am never with my patient; but quiet is of no less consequence to him at 10 than it was at 5 minutes to 10.

Curious as it may seem, this very obvious consideration occurs comparatively to few, or, if it does occur, it is only to cause the devoted friend or nurse to be absent fewer hours or fewer minutes from her patient—not to arrange so as that no minute and no hour shall be for her patient without the essentials of her nursing.

A very few instances will be sufficient, not as precepts, but as illustrations.

A strange washerwoman, coming late at night for the "things," will burst in by mistake to the patient's sick-room, after he has fallen into his first doze, giving him a shock, the effects of which are irremediable, though he himself laughs at the cause, and probably never even mentions it. The nurse who is, and is quite right to be, at her supper, has not provided that the washerwoman shall not lose her way and go into the wrong room.

The patient's room may always have the window open. But the passage outside the patient's room, though provided with several large windows, may never have one open; because it is not understood that the charge of the sick-room extends to the charge of the passage. And thus, as often happens, the nurse makes it her business to turn the patient's room into a ventilating shaft for the foul air of the whole house.

An uninhabited room, a newly-painted room, an uncleaned closet or cupboard, may often become the reservoir of foul air for the whole house, because the person in charge never thinks of arranging that these places shall be always aired, always cleaned; she merely opens the window herself "when she goes in."

An agitating letter or message may be delivered, or an important letter or message *not* delivered; a visitor whom it was of consequence to see, may be refused, or one whom it was of still more consequence to *not* see may be admitted—because the person in charge has never asked herself this question, What is done when I am not there?

At all events, one may safely say, a nurse cannot be with the patient, open the door, eat her meals, take a message, all at one and the same time. Nevertheless the person in charge never seems to look the impossibility in the face.

Add to this that the *attempting* this impossibility does more to increase the poor patient's hurry and nervousness than any thing else.

It is never thought that the patient remembers these things if you do not. He has not only to think whether the visit or letter may arrive, but whether you will be in the way at the particular day and hour when it may arrive. So that your *partial* measures for "being in the way" yourself, only increase the necessity for his thought. Whereas, if you could but arrange that the thing should always be done whether you are there or not, he need never think at all about it.

For the above reasons, whatever a patient *can* do for himself, it is better, *i. e.* less anxiety, for him to do for himself, unless the person in charge has the spirit of management.

It is evidently much less exertion for a patient to answer a letter for himself by return of post, than to have four conversations, wait five days, have six anxieties before it is off his mind, before the person who has to answer it has done so.

Apprehension, uncertainty, waiting, expectation, fear of surprise, do a patient more harm than any exertion. Remember, he is face to face with his enemy all the time, internally wrestling with him, having long imaginary conversations with him. You are thinking of something else. "Rid him of his adversary quickly," is a first rule with the sick.

For the same reasons, always tell a patient and tell him beforehand when you are going out and when you will be back, whether it is for a day, an hour, or ten minutes. You fancy perhaps that it is better for him if he does not find out your going at all, better for him if you do not make yourself "of too much importance" to him; or else you cannot bear to give him the pain or the anxiety of the temporary separation.

No such thing. You *ought* to go, we will suppose. Health or duty requires it. Then say so to the patient openly. If you go without his knowing it, and he finds it out, he never will feel secure again that the things which depend upon you will be done when you are away, and in nine cases out of ten he will be right. If you go out without telling him when you will be back, he can take no measures nor precautions as to the things which concern you both, or which you do for him.

In institutions where many lives would be lost, and the effect of such a want of management would be terrible and patent, there is less of it than in the private house.

But in both, let whoever is in charge keep this simple question in her head (*not*, how can I always do this right thing myself, but) how can I provide for this right thing to be always done?

Then, when any thing wrong has actually happened in consequence of her absence, which absence we will suppose to have been quite right, let her question still be (*not*, how can I provide against any more of such absences? which is neither possible nor desirable, but) how can I provide against any thing wrong arising out of my absence?

NOISE.

Unnecessary noise, or noise that creates an expectation in the mind, is that which hurts a patient. It is rarely the loudness of the noise, the effect upon the organ of the ear itself, which appears to affect the sick. How well a patient will generally bear, *e. g.*, the putting up of a scaffolding close to the house, when he cannot bear the talking, still less the whispering, especially if it be of a familar voice, outside his door.

Never to allow a patient to be waked, intentionally or accidentally, is a *sine qua non* of all good nursing. If he is roused out of his first sleep, he is almost certain to have no more sleep. It is a curious but quite intelligible fact that, if a patient is waked after a few hours' instead of a few minutes' sleep, he is much more likely to sleep again. Because pain, like irritability of brain, perpetuates and intensifies itself. If you have gained a respite of either in sleep, you have gained more than the mere respite. Both the probability of recurrence and of the same intensity will be diminished; whereas both will be terribly increased by want of sleep. This is the reason why sleep is so all-important. This is the reason why a patient waked in the early part of his sleep loses not only his sleep, but his power to sleep. A healthy person who allows himself to sleep during the day will lose his sleep at night. But it is exactly the reverse with the sick generally; the more they sleep, the better will they be able to sleep.

I have often been surprised at the thoughtlessness (resulting in cruelty, quite unintentionally) of friends or of doctors who will hold a long conversation just in the room or passage adjoining to the room of the patient, who is either every moment expecting them to come in, or who has just seen them, and knows they are talking about him. If it is a whispered conversation in the same room, then it is absolutely cruel; for it is impossible that the patient's attention should not be involuntarily strained to hear. Walking on tip-toe, doing any thing in the room very slowly, are injurious, for exactly the same reasons. A firm, light, quick step, a steady, quick hand, are the desiderata; not the slow, lingering, shuffling foot, the timid, uncertain touch. Slowness is not gentleness, though it is often mistaken for such: quickness, lightness, and gentleness are quite compatible. Again, if friends and doctors did but watch, as nurses can and should watch, the features sharpening, the eyes growing almost wild, of fever patients who are listening for the entrance from the corridor of the persons whose voices they are hearing there, these would never run the risk again of creating such expectation, or irritation of mind. Such unnecessary noise has undoubtedly induced or aggravated delirium in many cases.

I need hardly say that the other common cause, namely, for a doctor or friend to leave the patient and communicate his opinion on the result of his visit to the friends just outside the patient's door, or in the adjoining room, after the visit, but within hearing or knowledge of the patient, is, if possible, worst of all.

It is, I think, alarming, peculiarly at this time, when the female ink-bottles are perpetually impressing upon us "woman's" "particular worth and general missionariness," to see that the dress of woman is daily more and more unfitting them for any "mission," or usefulness at all. It is equally unfitted for all poetic and all domestic purposes. A man is now a more handy and far less objectionable being in a sick room than a woman. Compelled by her dress, every woman now either shuffles or waddles—only a man can cross the floor of a sick-room without shaking it! What is become of woman's light step?—the firm, light, quick step we have been asked for?

The noiseless step of woman, the noiseless drapery of woman, are mere figures of speech in this day. Her skirts (and well if they do not throw down some piece of furniture) will at least brush against every article in the room as she moves.

Again, one nurse cannot open the door without making every thing rattle. Or she opens the door unnecessarily often, for want of remembering all the articles that might be brought in at once.

A good nurse will always make sure that no door or window in her patient's room shall rattle or creak; that no blind or curtain shall, by any change of wind through the open window, be made to flap—especially will she be careful of all this before she leaves her patients for the night. If you wait till your patients tell you, or remind you of these things, where is the use of their having a nurse? There are more shy than exacting patients, in all classes; and many a patient passes a bad night, time after time, rather than remind his nurse every night of all the things she has forgotten.

If there are blinds to your windows, always take care to have them well up, when they are not being used. A little piece slipping down, and flapping with every draught, will distract a patient.

All hurry or bustle is peculiarly painful to the sick. And when a patient has compulsory occupations to engage him, instead of having simply to amuse himself, it becomes doubly injurious. The friend who remains standing and fidgeting about while a patient is talking business to him, or the friend who sits and proses, the one from an idea of not letting the patient talk, the other from an idea of amusing him—each is equally inconsiderate. Always sit down when a sick person is talking business to you, show no signs of hurry, give complete attention and full consideration if your advice is wanted, and go away the moment the subject is ended.

Always sit within the patient's view, so that when you speak to him he has not painfully to turn his head round in order to look at you. Everybody involuntarily looks at the person speaking. If you make this act a wearisome one on the part of the patient, you are doing him harm. So also if by continuing to stand you make him continuously raise his eyes to see you. Be as motionless as possible, and never gesticulate in speaking to the sick.

Never make a patient repeat a message or request, especially if it be some time after. Occupied patients are often accused of doing too much of their own business. They are instinctively right. How often you hear the person, charged with the request of giving the message or writing the letter, say half an hour afterwards to the patient, "Did you appoint 12 o'clock?" or, "What did you say was the address?" or ask perhaps some much more agitating question—thus causing the patient the effort of memory, or worse still, of decision, all over again. It is

really less exertion to him to write his letters himself. This is the almost universal experience of occupied invalids.

This brings us to another caution. Never speak to an invalid from behind, nor from the door, nor from any distance from him, nor when he is doing any thing.

The official politeness of servants in these things is so grateful to invalids, that many prefer, without knowing why, having none but servants about them.

These things are not fancy. If we consider that, with sick as with well, every thought decomposes some nervous matter—that decomposition as well as re-composition of nervous matter is always going on, and more quickly with the sick than with the well—that, to obtrude abruptly another thought upon the brain while it is in the act of destroying nervous matter by thinking, is calling upon it to make a new exertion—if we consider these things, which are facts, not fancies, we shall remember that we are doing positive injury by interrupting, by "startling a fanciful" person, as it is called. Alas! it is no fancy.

If the invalid is forced, by his avocations, to continue occupations requiring much thinking, the injury is doubly great. In feeding a patient suffering under delirium or stupor you may suffocate him, by giving him his food suddenly, but if you rub his lips gently with a spoon and thus attract his attention, he will swallow the food unconsciously, but with perfect safety. Thus it is with the brain. If you offer it a thought, especially one requiring a decision, abruptly, you do it a real not fanciful injury. Never speak to a sick person suddenly; but, at the same time, do not keep his expectation on the tip-toe.

This rule, indeed, applies to the well quite as much as to the sick. I have never known persons who exposed themselves for years to constant interruption who did not muddle away their intellects by it at last. The process with them may be accomplished without pain. With the sick, pain gives warning of the injury.

Do not meet or overtake a patient who is moving about in order to speak to him, or to give him any message or letter. You might just as well give him a box on the ear. I have seen a patient fall flat on the ground who was standing when his nurse came into the room. This was an accident which might have happened to the most careful nurse. But the other is done with intention. A patient in such a state is not going to the East Indies. If you would wait ten seconds, or walk ten yards further, any promenade he could make would be over. You do not know the effort it is to a patient to remain standing for even a quarter of a minute to listen to you. If I had not seen the thing done by the kindest nurses and friends, I should have thought this caution quite superfluous.

It is absolutely essential that a nurse should lay this down as a positive rule to herself, never to speak to any patient who is standing or moving, as long as she exercises so little observation as not to know when a patient cannot bear it. I am satisfied that many of the accidents which happen from feeble patients tumbling down stairs, fainting after getting up, &c., happen solely from the nurse popping out of a door to speak to the patient just at that moment; or from his fearing that she will do so. And that if the patient were even left to himself, till he can sit down, such accidents would much seldomer occur. If the nurse accompanies the patient, let her not call upon him to speak. It is incredible that nurses cannot picture to themselves the strain upon the heart, the lungs, and the brain, which the act of moving is to any feeble patient.

Patients are often accused of being able to "do much more when nobody is by." It is quite true that they can. Unless nurses can be brought to attend to considerations of the kind of which we have given here but a few specimens, a very weak patient finds it really much less exertion to do things for himself than to ask for them. And he will, in order to do them, (very innocently and from instinct,) calculate the time his nurse is likely to be absent, from a fear of her "coming in upon" him or speaking to him, just at the moment when he finds it quite as much as he can do to crawl from his bed to his chair, or from one room to another, or down stairs, or out of doors for a few minutes.—*Miss Nightingale.*

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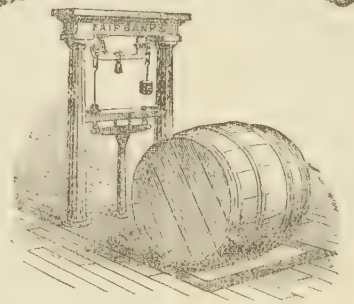

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THOS. BARRON,
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DAVID J. ELY,
JOSEPH MORRISON,
WM. H. POPHAM,
B. C. MORRIS, JR.,
EZRA NYE,
HENRY J. CAMMANN,
THOMAS LORD,
ROBERT S. HOLT,
J. B. GRIFFIN.

THOS. LORD, Vice-President. **B. C. MORRIS, President.**

WM. M. WHITNEY, 2d Vice-President and Secretary.

Thirteenth Annual Report

OF THE

Manhattan Life Insurance COMPANY,

Of NEW YORK.

Office, No. 31 NASSAU STREET, opposite the Post Office.

New York, January 1, 1864.

Net Assets, January 1, 1863		$1,287,597 35

RECEIPTS DURING YEAR:

For Premiums, Extra Premiums, &c.	$644,856 92	
" Interest and Rents	93,195 90	
" Interest and Rents accrued	14,348 56	
		752,401 38
		$2,039,998 73

DISBURSEMENTS:

Paid Claims by Death on Policies and Bonus, and payment of Annuities	$153,654 27	
Paid Expenses, Salaries, Taxes, Medical Examiners' Fees, Commissions, &c.	88,828 87	
Paid Dividends, Re-Insurance, Purchased Policies and Bonus and Interest on Dividends	248,666 37	
		491,149 51
		1,548,849 22

ASSETS:

Cash in Bank	$ 27,962 13	
Bonds and Mortgages	261,974 00	
Real Estate	146,678 74	
Premium Notes on Policies in Force	595,945 34	
(The Actuarial estimate of the value of the Policies which secure these Notes is about $700,000)		
Quarterly and Semi-Annual Premiums Deferred	55,532 07	
United States and New York State Stocks	270,416 25	
Premiums and Interest in the hands of Agents in course of collection and transmission, secured by Bonds	119,442 13	
Temporary Loans on Stocks and Bonds	56,550 00	
Interest accrued to 1st January, and all other property	14,348 56	
		$1,548,849 22

J. L. HALSEY, Ass't Sec'y. HENRY STOKES, Pres't.
S. N. STEBBINS, Actuary. **C. Y. WEMPLE, Secretary.**
A. DU BOIS, Medical Examiner.
REYNOLDS & VAN SCHAICK, Counsel.

PARTICIPATION

FIRE INSURANCE.

NORTH AMERICAN

FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY,

Of the City of New York,

OFFICE, No. 114 BROADWAY.

INCORPORATED 1823.

CASH CAPITAL, - - - - - - $500,000 00
ASSETS, - - - - - - - 604,535 59

NO CLAIMS FOR LOSSES.

Abstract of the EIGHTY-THIRD Semi-Annual Statement, showing the Condition of the Company on the 31st day of December, 1863.

ASSETS:

Loans on Bond and Mortgage, being first lien on Real Estate, worth over Fifty per cent. above the amount loaned	$157,360	00
Stocks, Bonds, and other Securities owned by the Company, market value	364,385	00
Cash in Bank and Office	6,603	11
Loans on demand with collateral	46,000	00
Premiums due and outstanding	5,384	00
Cash in Agents' hands in course of transmission, (business of December since received,)	10,220	39
Interest accrued on Securities	13,788	83
Other Property of Company	793	75
	$604,535	59

Losses unpaid, none.

Insures Property against Loss by Fire at usual rates, at the Office of the Company, or through their Agents in the principal Cities and Villages of the United States; adjusting and paying Claims with the liberality and promptness that has characterized their business during the past *Forty-one Years.*

The Customers receive **Three-Fourths** of the Net Profits of the business each year, without incurring any liability whatever.

R. W. BLEECKER, Sec'y. **JAMES W. OTIS**, Pres't.

R. F. MASON, Superintendent of Agencies.

DURYEA'S MAIZENA

RECEIVED

TWO PRIZE MEDALS

(FROM JURIES 3 AND 4)

AT THE

INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION,

LONDON, 1862.

Being Sole Awards gained by anything of the kind. It also received Superlative Report of

"EXCEEDING EXCELLENT FOR FOOD."

MAIZENA,

At the GREAT INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION at HAMBURG, July, 1863, received the highest Prize Medal for its great delicacy as an article of food.

MAIZENA,

At the FAIR of the NEW YORK STATE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY, at Utica, N. Y., September, 1863, received both DIPLOMA and MEDAL.

MAIZENA,

AT THE

Pennsylvania State Fair at Norristown,

OCT. 3, 1863, TOOK GOLD MEDAL.

"MAIZENA" has also taken the first premium at the AMERICAN INSTITUTE, New York City; NEW JERSEY STATE FAIR at Trenton, and at other places—in every instance where it has been exhibited.

"MAIZENA" has never failed to receive the highest award when placed in competition with Corn Starch and all articles of like character, after a thorough Microscopical and Analytical Examination of disinterested judges. It therefore stands commended to the public as the best article of its kind in the world without any comments of the manufacturer.

MAIZENA,

For Puddings, Cakes, Custards, Blanc Mange, &c., without isinglass, with few or no eggs, at a cost astonishing the most economical. It is also excellent for thickening sweet sauces, gravies for fish and meat, soups, &c. For Ice Cream, nothing can compare with it. A little boiled in milk will produce rich cream for Coffee, Chocolate, Tea, &c.

Put up in one pound packages, under the trade mark "Maizena," with directions for use.

A most delicious article of food for children and invalids of all ages. For sale by Grocers and Druggists everywhere.

WHOLESALE DEPOT, 166 FULTON STREET.

WM. DURYEA, General Agent.

NEW YORK

COMMERCIAL ADVERTISER,

A Daily Evening Newspaper,

Published at 1½, 2½, and 4 P. M.,

IN A LARGE FOLIO SHEET.

The COMMERCIAL ADVERTISER, through its reorganization and enlarged facilities, commands a position in advance of existing commercial papers, while it abates no claim to rank on terms of equality with the most popular literary and the most trustworthy political journals.

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SEMI-WEEKLY,

THREE DOLLARS per annum, in advance, with reduced Rates to Clubs.

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COMMERCIAL ADVERTISER ASSOCIATION,

Cor. Pine and William Streets, New York.

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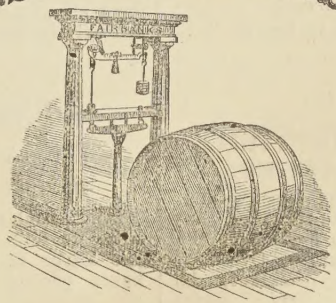


Adapted to every branch of business.

MANUFACTURED ONLY BY THE ORIGINAL INVENTORS,

E. & T. FAIRBANKS & CO., St. Johnsbury, Vermont.

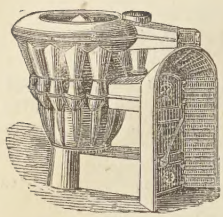
PRINCIPAL WAREHOUSES:

FAIRBANKS & CO., No. 252 Broadway, New York.
FAIRBANKS & BROWN, No. 118 Milk Street, Boston.
FAIRBANKS, GREENLEAF & CO., No. 172 Lake Street, Chicago.
FAIRBANKS & EWING, Masonic Hall, Philadelphia.
FAIRBANKS & CO., No. 246 Baltimore Street, Baltimore.

Descriptive circulars furnished or mailed to any address, on application to either of the above.

SANFORD'S CHALLENGE HEATERS,

TO SET IN BRICK, OR PORTABLE.



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The most powerful HEATERS known for warming

DWELLINGS, CHURCHES,

Hospitals, Schools, Vessels, &c.

Send or call for a FULL DESCRIPTION, and an unparalleled mass of testimony from some of our first citizens.

PORTABLE.

SANFORD'S MAMMOTH

OR

GLOBE HEATERS,

Of great power and economy of fuel, for all places where great heat is wanted, as

Stores, Hotels, R. R. Depots, Vessels, &c.

These Heaters are used by the Hudson River and other RAILROADS, most of the *Ferries, Fire Engine Houses, &c.* Beware of imitations that are inferior.

Extensively used in Hospitals and Barracks.

GET SANFORD'S MAMMOTH.

THE COSMOPOLITE

PARLOR COAL STOVE,

With Radiator, Ventilator, and Gas Burning Attachment.

The Leading Stove for

PARLORS,

SITTING-ROOMS,

And all places where a SOFT, PLEASANT HEAT is desired. Fires kept all winter with an astonishingly small supply of coal.

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CHALLENGE AIR-TIGHT KITCHEN RANGES,

For Coal or Wood, set in fire-places without masonry, or out on feet; have the Largest Ovens of any in market; bake perfectly; never failing to brown at the bottom. Boil, Roast and Broil with great facility and dispatch, and ECONOMY OF FUEL. *A most desirable Range for Private Houses, Hotels, Hospitals, Barracks, &c.*

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SUMMER AND WINTER

PORTABLE RANGE.

A very popular Range, with Six Boiler Holes, one Large Oven that bakes perfectly, with an arrangement for Roasting, or Heating Irons, at the end.

☞ *A perfect apparatus for a few dollars, and well suited for families, restaurants, barracks, &c.*

Also, a great variety of COOKING AND HEATING APPARATUS, suited to every want. Also, the UNION STOVE POLISH. Get description of above, with references, from

SANFORD, TRUSLOW & CO.,

23 and 241 Water St., New York.